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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Moscow Talks Under Way; Shetrit Meets Ross *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jul]* 1
U.S. Stance Said To Give Israel 'License To Occupy' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Jul]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Concerned About U.S. 'Double Standard' *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 5 Jul]* 2
UK Arabic Paper Defends U.S. Strike on Iraq *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Jul]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders May Boycott Meetings With U.S. Envoys *[AL-QUDS 3 Jul]* 4
PLO Leadership's Rejection of U.S. Paper Detailed *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jul]* 4
Abu-Sharif on U.S. Document, Readiness for Peace *[Cairo International]* 6
Nusaybah Comments on 10th Round, U.S. Document *[AL-FAJR 5 Jul]* 6
Negotiator Stresses Stance on Jerusalem Issue *[AL-QUDS 5 Jul]* 8
Editorial Questions Intent of Christopher Remarks *[AL-QUDS 6 Jul]* 9
Christopher Warning Seen Aimed at Palestinians *[AL-FAJR 6 Jul]* 9
Hamas Spokesman Rejects 'Arafat 'Umbrella' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Jul]* 9
Kuwait To Resume Educational Aid to Territories *[AL-NAHAR 3 Jul]* 11
'Financial Siege' of Gulf Aid to PLO Seen *[AL-NAHAR 1 Jul]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

HSC's Kafi Addresses Nation on Independence Day *[Algiers TV]* 12
Minister Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt *[Rabat Radio]* 13
Court Passes Death Sentence on Killer of Gendarmes *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Constantine Court Jails 6 on Charges of Terrorism *[Algiers Radio]* 13

Egypt

'Abd-al-Rahman's Followers Assail U.S. Policy *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Jul]* 13
Lawyers Warn of Reprisals for Shaykh's Detention *[AFP]* 14
Columnist Says FBI Fabricated New York Bombing Plot *[AL-AHRAM 1 Jul]* 15
U.S. Inability To Find 'Abd-al-Rahman Questioned *[AL-AHRAM 3 Jul]* 15
Paper Urges U.S. To See 'Importance' of Extradition *[MENA]* 16
Al-Fayyum Resident Linked With 'Abd-al-Rahman Arrested *[MENA]* 16
Mubarak Addresses Navy on Sudan, Shaykh's Arrest *[MENA]* 16
Comments on Peace Process *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Official Goes to Moscow With Message for Kozyrev *[MENA]* 18
Sailor Charged With Spying for Israel Interrogated *[AL-AKHBAR 24 Jun]* 18
Judicial Source Denies Reports *[AL-WAFD 25 Jun]* 18
Newspapers Critical of U.S. Attack on Baghdad *[AL-WAFD 29 Jun, etc.]* 19
Musa, British Ambassador Discuss Libyan-West Crisis *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Appointment of Ambassador to Eritrea Announced *[AL-AHRAM 1 Jul]* 19
'Full Understanding' With IMF, World Bank Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 19

Libya

Opposition Leader on Ties With Israel, Lockerbie *[AL-SHIRA' 28 Jun]* 20

Morocco

King Receives Indian Vice President, Delegation *[MAP]* 21
African Leaders Conclude Visit, Depart *[MAP]* 21

Sudan

Head of 'New York Network' Said Islamic Front Official
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jul] 21
Al-Bashir Views Regional Relations in Anniversary Speech *[SUNA]* 22
Interviewed on Ties With Egypt *[MENA]* 22
Five of 20 Detained Egyptians Released *[MENA]* 22

Western Sahara

UN Proposes Morocco-Polisario Talks in Laayoune *[Algiers Radio]* 23
Polisario Willing To Participate *[Algiers Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

National Assembly Seeks Lifting of Arms Ban on Bosnia *[Kuwait TV]* 24
Minister Queried on Tunisian Visit, Arab Reconciliation *[AL-ITTIHAD 25 Jun]* 24
French Defense Minister Begins Two-Day Visit *[KUNA]* 25

Qatar

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives With Letter for Amir *[WAKH]* 25
Ambassadorial Level Relations Established With Eritrea *[WAKH]* 25

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Qatari Military Delegation *[SPA]* 25
King Meets Deputy Commander *[SPA]* 25
Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif Visits Medina, Departs *[SPA]* 25
Foreign Minister Meets Malaysian Counterpart *[SPA]* 25
'Anti-Islamic' Amnesty International Report Assailed *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Jul]* 26

United Arab Emirates

Heir Apparent Receives PRC's Li Lanqing *[WAKH]* 26
Government Welcomes Nomination of Eritrea Ambassador *[WAKH]* 26

Yemen

Policy Statement Approved, Stresses Exclusive Gulf Ties *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Prime Minister Briefs House on Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
President Inaugurates Fourth Earth Satellite Station *[Sanaa Radio]* 27

IRAQ

Foreign Minister Explains Move on UN Cameras *[INA]* 28
Foreign Minister Sends Message to Brutus-Ghali *[INA]* 28
Negotiations Begin With UN Over Oil Exports *[INA]* 30
Talks Said Fruit of Steadfastness *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
U.S. Seeking Arab Allies' Backing for Further Strike *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Jul]* 30

Emphasis on Intelligence Headquarters as Target Viewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 3 Jul]* 31
Paper: Nothing Gained by Compliance With Resolutions *[INA]* 32
March Staged at UNDP Office Denounces U.S. Attack *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Authorities Reportedly Stop Jamming VOA, BBC Radios *[Jerusalem International]* 33
Car Bomb Explodes Near al-Basrah Journalists' Building *[INA]* 33
SAIRI: 1,000 Mass at Iranian Border To Escape Attacks *[AFP]* 33
Iranian Aircraft, Artillery Attack Kurdish Areas *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 33
Regime Imposes Curfew on Karkuk, Arrests Deserters *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 33

ISRAEL

Civil Servants Declare Strike Over Wage Dispute *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Housing Minister Comments on Christopher Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
'Flexibility' To Keep U.S. as Full Partner Cited *[AFP]* 35
Ministers Reported To Favor Direct Talks With PLO 35
Labor MK Calls for Public Stand *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Sarid: Cost Will Be Lower *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Rabin: No Point in Changing Negotiating Partner *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Foreign Minister Peres Interviewed on Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Peres Urged To Voice Opinion on Peace Process *[HA'ARETZ 2 Jul]* 37
Commentary Urges Acceptance of U.S. Paper *[HA'ARETZ 4 Jul]* 38
Commentator Believes Chance for Peace Lost *[HA'ARETZ 6 Jul]* 39
Talks Stalemate Prompts No-Confidence Motions 40
Tzomet, NRP Submit Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Likud Submits Motion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Katyushas Hit Western Galilee Near Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Knesset Member Or Discusses Situation in North *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
Ben-Eli'ezer: No Need To Change Policy in North *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Settlers Fear Massacres To Follow 'Arrangement' *[HADASHOT 4 Jul]* 41
Official Reports Jewish Majority in East Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 6 Jul]* 42
Jewish Settlers Buying Homes in Center of Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Proposals To Ease Coalition Naval Blockade on Elat *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jul]* 42

JORDAN

King Views Foreign, Domestic Issues in Speech to Senators *[Amman TV]* 44
Proceedings of Meeting Detailed *[Amman TV]* 47
Further on King Meeting With 'Arafat, Statements *[Amman Radio]* 54
Editorial Views Meeting *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Jul]* 55
Deputies Question Government's Election Law Stand *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jul]* 55
Editorial Views Democratization, Election Law *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jul]* 56
Columnist Sees 'Conspiracy' Behind Shaykh's Arrest *[AL-DUSTUR 5 Jul]* 56
Columnist Terms Shaykh 'Victim' *[AL-RA'Y 5 Jul]* 56
EC Commissioner on European Role in Peace Process *[Amman Radio]* 57
Crown Prince Confers With Britain's Hurd in London *[Amman TV]* 57

LEBANON

'Awn Supporter Mahfuz Detained for Misinformation *[Beirut Radio]* 58
Al-Hirawi 'Indisposed,' Will Not Receive Visitors *[Beirut Radio]* 58
Papers Link U.S. Attack With Peace Talks *[AL-SAFIR 28 Jun, etc.]* 58
Bishop Criticized for Statements on Hizballah *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 59
Clashes Reported in Sujud, Other Areas in South 60
Hizballah Radio Reports Shelling *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 60
'Fierce' Clashes Between Resistance, SLA *[VOL]* 60
Retaliatory Operations Reported *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 60
Israelis Said Reinforcing Positions *[VOM]* 61
Bodies of 'Anti-Israeli Fighters' Found *[VOL]* 61
Iranians Among 16 Casualties in Rocket Explosion *[AFP]* 61

SYRIA

Clinton Accused of Breaking Promises Over Peace Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Jul]* 62
Commentary Views Rabin's Statements, Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 62
Paper Says Israeli Arms Threaten Regional Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 63

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Gen. Dostam Visits Kabul in Bid To Establish Cease-Fire 64
Meets With Rabbani *[Kabul Radio]* 64
Talks With Mas'ud *[AFP]* 64
Mazari Denies Dostam Pressure *[AFP]* 64
Talks Continue Amid Shelling *[AFP]* 65
Cabinet Discusses Security, Economic Issues 5 Jul *[Kabul Radio]* 66

Bangladesh

Tension Rises on Border With Burma After Talks Fail *[AFP]* 66
Paper Views U.S Missile Strike on Baghdad *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 30 Jun]* 67

India

Russian Cryogenic Engine Deal Said 'Very Much On' *[Delhi Radio]* 67
Spokesman Welcomes U.S. Decision on Nuclear Testing *[Delhi Radio]* 68
Kashmir Governor Reiterates Resolve To Hold Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 68
Islamic 'Mercenaries' Becoming More Active in Kashmir *[AFP]* 68

Iran

Cooperation Protocol Signed with PRC *[IRNA]* 69
Agreements With India on Construction, Gas Projects *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Official Comments on Repatriation of Afghan Refugees *[Tehran TV]* 70
Foreign Ministry Criticized Over Hostages in Lebanon *[IRNA]* 70
UN Mission Issues Statement *[IRNA]* 70
Need Seen for Islam To Have Security Council Presence *[Tehran Radio]* 70
ECO's Shortcomings, Room for Cooperation Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 71
Commentary Discusses Resumption of Iraqi Oil Exports *[Tehran Radio]* 72
Rushdie 'Unremorseful' Over Deaths in Turkey *[IRNA]* 72
Exchange Rates Reduced for Major Foreign Currencies *[Tehran Radio]* 72

Nepal

Clashes, Demonstrations Mark Nationwide Strike *[AFP]* 73
Further Protests Planned *[AFP]* 73

Pakistan

IJI Meeting Calls For President's Impeachment *[DAWN 6 Jul]* 74
Bhutto Denies Secret Accord With Government *[THE MUSLIM 6 Jul]* 75
Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Offers Proposals to President *[Islamabad Radio]* 75
Bhutto's Meeting With Political Rival Viewed *[THE NEWS 6 Jul]* 75
Sharif Returns to Islamabad From Istanbul *[Islamabad International]* 76
Indian Arrested Near Airbase for Suspected Spying *[THE NEWS 7 Jul]* 76

Sri Lanka

Government Welcomes U.S. Decision on Nuclear Testing *[Colombo International]* 76
Security Forces Recover Arms, Kill 4 in Batticaloa *[Colombo International]* 76

Arab-Israeli Talks

Moscow Talks Under Way; Shetrit Meets Ross

TA0707104793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Text] This weekend, Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, will join the team of four U.S. delegates who are due to arrive in Israel tomorrow, headed by Dennis Ross, the special U.S. peace talks coordinator.

In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in Moscow yesterday, Djerejian suggested that the steering committee of the multilateral talks allocate the resources the Palestinians require for the early transfer of authorities from the Civil Administration to the autonomy institutions.

Jerusalem received the proposal with great satisfaction, because there is a fear that the financial problems might create difficulties for the Palestinians when they set up their institutions. Beilin promised that Israel will favorably consider the proposal, which establishes a link between the bilateral and multilateral tracks for the first time.

Djerejian made it clear that the U.S. document was not designed to serve as anything more than a basis for the continuation of the talks, but political sources in Jerusalem report that the Americans have made it clear that they do not intend to begin discussing far-reaching changes in the document. Jerusalem and Washington believe that the main obstacle is the disagreement regarding the jurisdiction of the interim arrangement and that the issue of Jerusalem is less of an obstacle.

In coordinating discussions with the heads of the U.S., Japanese, Russian, and EC delegations, Beilin announced that Israel will oppose the idea of establishing a working group on Jerusalem, which the Arabs are expected to raise in the steering committee discussions. At the same time, Beilin said that the Israeli delegation will favorably consider the proposal to set up a human rights committee, provided that it discusses democratization and freedom of worship throughout the region.

Beilin suggested that a new multilateral working group be set up to deal with health issues, for the well-being of all the residents of the region. It has been reported that the United States is examining an option to add Syria and Lebanon to the steering committee as a first step toward their incorporation in the five working groups of the multilateral track.

Yoshiji Nojami, head of the Japanese team, told Beilin that Japan will oppose the EC proposal to unite the working groups on water and on environment issues unless Japan heads the combined group. Beilin said that Israel also opposes uniting the two groups because each has its unique contribution to make in the advancement of different projects.

The Belgian Government has allocated $60 million for the construction of a port in Gaza. Jerusalem was notified that the Belgian authorities have approved the project and allocated a budget clause for this.

Washington (exclusive to HA'ARETZ)—Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit met yesterday with Dennis Ross, the special U.S. peace talks coordinator, and presented him with Israel's main reservations regarding the American draft for a joint Israeli- Palestinian declaration of principles. Shetrit said this at the end of the meeting.

Minister Shetrit said that he made it unequivocally clear to Ross that Israel has no intention of incorporating the PLO in the peace process. In the meeting—the content of which Shetrit had coordinated with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in advance—he elaborated on the reasons for Israel's reservations regarding the document, whose contents were published in the Israeli and East Jerusalem Arab press.

A senior U.S. Administration official said yesterday that the administration believes that the recent remarks by senior Palestinian figures—according to which the Palestinians do not view the American document as a basis for negotiations—do not constitute the Palestinians' "bottom line."

The official said that in the coming days, the administration intends to continue to base the U.S. mission of mediating between Israel and the Palestinians (through the visit to the region of the U.S. delegation, headed by Dennis Ross) on the American document. The official noted that the Palestinians have not yet asked the administration to withdraw the document.

According to Shetrit, he told Ross that the changes the Americans made in their current paper, when compared with the 12 May document, "create the impression that they are the result of pressure applied by the other side. This is why we are disappointed with it."

Israel's three main reservations from the wording of the American draft relate to the following issues:

—The fact that East Jerusalem is mentioned as a negotiable issue in the framework of the negotiations on permanent arrangements in the territories.

—The fact that too much emphasis was given to the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for the negotiations, contrary to the Israeli stand that it should be stressed that the signing of peace treaties is the goal of the negotiations.

—The fact the that the functional authorities, which are administrative by nature, that are to be handed

over to the Palestinians are described in terminology that is governmental by nature (such as "powers and responsibilities").

Senior Israeli representatives have never before referred to the last two points as Israeli reservations. According to Israeli sources in Washington, the single essential issue in the American document that is disturbing to the Israeli Government is the demand that Israel pledge to hold negotiations with the Palestinians on the permanent status of East Jerusalem.

Minister Shetrit, who is in Washington for discussions with his U.S. Administration counterparts on issues relating to his ministry, said that he relayed the political messages regarding the peace process in coordination with Prime Minister Rabin. According to him, one of the main messages he relayed was that Prime Minister Rabin believes that the very mention of the idea that the PLO may be incorporated in the peace process has a negative impact because it is creating false expectations among the Palestinians regarding changes to the Madrid framework. Because of this expectation, the PLO is not allowing the Palestinian delegates to make progress in the negotiations.

According to Shetrit, Dennis Ross said that although the peace process requires patience, one cannot disregard the fact that time is pressing and that a sense of urgency must be combined with the need for patience.

Ross is leaving for the Middle East today, at the head of a small delegation of officials, and will arrive in Israel tomorrow. Ross will also tour Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. It is not yet clear whether the U.S. delegation will visit Beirut.

Sources in Washington said yesterday that if Secretary of State Warren Christopher decides to follow the officials' tour with a shuttle mission of his own, it will be held on 18 or 19 July and will not be longer than a week.

U.S. Stance Said To Give Israel 'License To Occupy'

PM0607112893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 93 p 11

[Bilal al-Hasan article: "From Licensing Killing to Licensing Occupation"]

[Text] In the final hours of the proceedings of the 10th round of bilateral negotiations in Washington, an American man held a press conference in Israel, announcing that the Israeli special units have a "license to kill," that they have killed more than 120 Palestinians since the intifadah started, and that half of these have been killed over the past year, that is, in the era of the Yitzhaq Rabin government.

In the final hours of the 10th round of bilateral negotiations, any member of the negotiating Arab delegation would have been able to hold a press conference in Washington, announcing that the United States has granted Israel a license to occupy. The 10th round of negotiations failed at the Palestinian level because of three issues: Jerusalem, territory, and settlements.

With regard to Jerusalem, Israel has annexed it in violation of international law and is completely refusing to include it on the agenda. Israel is also refusing to discuss sovereignty over territory. It is offering the Palestinians nothing but to become its employees in the health, education, and agriculture departments.

With regard to settlements, Israel wants to guarantee the existence of the settlements, their inhabitants, the land on which they have been built, and their security, saying that the Palestinians have absolutely nothing to do with them.

In the face of all these matters Washington is once again presenting a draft agreement of principle perpetuating the three points in question, hence granting Israel a license to occupy and to continue this occupation.

In contrast, Washington is refusing to agree to the Palestinians' demand to include the Jerusalem issue on the agenda and to emphasize that Resolution 242 is the authority for the negotiations at all stages. It is saying that its task is just to reconcile views.

If we say that the Palestinian issue is complex and thorny and cannot be resolved by two rounds of negotiations during Clinton's term and eight rounds during Bush's term, what about the Lebanese issue and the Syrian issue?

The Lebanese issue is supposed to be clear and unambiguous, but despite this, the Israeli negotiator is still willing—as the head of the Lebanese delegation said—to talk for a long time about "the Syrian occupation," refusing to providing an answer when asked about the Israeli occupation.

And the Golan issue is supposed not to be subject to the "Torah promised land" considerations, but despite this, the Israeli negotiator says that he wants first a commitment to full normalization, sharing of water, and trade and tourist exchange, then he would kindly agree to discuss the extent of the Israeli withdrawal, not a complete withdrawal. And here Washington intervenes just to reconcile views, thus granting Israel a license to continue the occupation.

The negotiations were launched to discuss an Arab-Israeli problem, but are now—under the "full partner"—turning into an Arab-Israeli problem.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Concerned About U.S. 'Double Standard'

AU0507180693 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Jul 93 p 104

[Interview with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, by unidentified DER SPIEGEL

correspondent; place and date not given: "We Are Concerned About the Moral Double Standard"]

[Text] [Correspondent] The U.S. attack on Baghdad triggered vehement protests in the Arab world. As recently as two years ago, most Arabs still hailed the U.S. bombs against Iraq as an act of heroism. Why did they change their minds?

[Al-Majid] This time the United States used force without consulting the UN Security Council.

[Correspondent] Washington claims to have acted in harmony with the UN Charter. The right to self-defense is explicitly stipulated there.

[Al-Majid] Self-defense without a threat from Iraq? It is strange that the attack that killed innocent civilians was carried out at a time when the trial against the suspected assassins was not yet over. One simply cannot do that.

[Correspondent] Are you saying that President Clinton should not have ordered the strike before the defendants were convicted?

[Al-Majid] The starting point would have been different in any case. There is no doubt that we would condemn a murder plot as a dangerous act of terrorism. Yet even if conclusive evidence of the plot should be furnished, Article 51 of the UN Charter cited by the United States would not be enough for an immediate strike. The right to self-defense must also be discussed at the Security Council.

[Correspondent] Will the strike at least prevent Saddam Husayn from further terrorist activities?

[Al-Majid] What we Arabs are concerned about is the moral double standard that is used in tackling international problems. In some cases, the resolutions of the UN Security Council are being strictly observed, and in others UN resolutions are hardly noticed and not implemented at all. The situation in Bosnia is a good example.

[Correspondent] The United States intervened in two other member states of the Arab League—in Somalia and Libya. There has been no protest at all.

[Al-Majid] A clear UN mission is involved in Somalia—a humanitarian operation in a country where state authority no longer exists. International intervention and the disarmament of the rivaling groups are an obligation there. Libya is a different case.

[Correspondent] State terrorism is also involved there: the bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie.

[Al-Majid] No evidence has been furnished so far. The Arab League is trying to prevent the tightening of boycott measures imposed against Libya.

[Correspondent] Do you consider it possible that Clinton's unilateral efforts might enrage the Arabs to such an extent that Arab-Israeli peace talks might suffer?

[Al-Majid] One cannot tell at this point. A strong U.S. commitment—but a positive one—is required to ensure peace and stability in our explosive region. Otherwise there will be no peace.

UK Arabic Paper Defends U.S. Strike on Iraq

PM0207121793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 17

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi article: "Saddam Stays...Problem Stays"]

[Text] It might not take long before the U.S.-Iraqi confrontation witnesses a new escalation. In fact, it cannot be ruled out that this escalation could be on a larger and more dangerous scale. It does not take a lot of intelligence to conclude that the escalation is not only possible but also inevitable as long as the Iraqi regime remains a spike in the region's throat and as long as its head, Saddam Husayn, continues to behave with the pre-Gulf war and pre-Kuwait invasion mentality, which resulted in the mother of all routs and the ensuing international resolutions.

Those who have been alarmed by the U.S. operation can write hundreds of articles, analyses, and commentaries about the principles of international law, double standards, duality. They can also reject Washington's pretext that the operation was in retaliation for the Iraqi intelligence service's attempt to assassinate former President George Bush, and so. But all this and a lot more cannot negate the fact that the crux of the problem lies in Baghdad, its dictatorial regime, and the head of that regime.

We remind some of those who are keen to condemn the U.S. operation—especially those who did not condemn the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on the pretext that "it is an internal affair" of the Arabs—that the problem began in Baghdad, specifically when its leader decided that Kuwait was "conspiring" against his regime and that it was planning to launch "an aggression" against it, and hence must be punished by invasion and forcible annexation—which he actually did on 2 August 1990. And despite all the strenuous efforts exerted by the world over a period of six months to prompt him to end his occupation of an independent neighboring country, Saddam remained stubborn—which forced the international coalition to take decisive measures backed by an international legitimacy unprecedented in UN history to expel his troops by military force, liberate Kuwait, and return it to its people after "Saddam's troops" had devoted their efforts to destruction and murder there.

Some may say that the situation is different now, because the coalition's task ended with the liberation of Kuwait, and that Iraq should therefore be left alone. Wrong. The international community is still in a state of war with Iraq as long as it has not complied with the international resolutions, first and foremost Resolution

687 on the cease-fire terms, the resolution on the demarcation of the border between it and Kuwait, and Resolution 688 on repression of civilians which obligates Iraq to agree to the dispersal of international observers throughout Iraq to detect human right violations.

It should also be recalled that, after serious confrontations between international inspectors and the Iraqi authorities, Iraq was compelled to implement nearly every clause of the resolution on the elimination of mass-destruction weapons. The inspectors had to use their own means to uncover most of the information and sites related to the manufacture of nuclear and chemical weapons, which Baghdad had originally said did not exist.

The question now is: What does Iraq need all these weapons for? For self-defense or to "liberate" Palestine? The Ba'thist regime has been in power in Iraq for 25 years, during which Saddam Husayn has been the real ruler: vice president and then dictator. Throughout this period, the regime has never used its military and armed capabilities for self-defense, but only for aggression against its neighbors and the Iraqi people themselves: against the Kurds from 1968-70, against the Kurds again from 1974-75, and in 1980 it invaded Iran to ignite a futile war between the two countries that lasted eight years and claimed a million lives. At the end of this war, Saddam mounted the notorious "al-Anfal" operations in which some 200,000 Kurds were annihilated and thousands of Kurdish villages destroyed. In August 1990, Saddam used his military force to occupy Kuwait. When he was expelled from there, he moved his forces toward southern and northern Iraq to suppress the Shia and the Kurds.

Can we expect anything other than an escalation of confrontation? The answer is clear: No, a regime like Saddam's can survive on nothing but crime, invasion, and aggression.

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders May Boycott Meetings With U.S. Envoys

T:0607134693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Jul 93 p 1

[By Tahir Shuraytah]

[Text] Gaza—Palestinian sources close to the negotiating delegation say that there is a tendency in the Palestinian negotiating team to boycott the U.S. team that will visit the region later this week. This, in protest against the biased positions toward Israel adopted by members of the U.S. team whose members are composed of American Jewish officials known for their loyalty to Israel. In addition, this will be a protest against the official U.S. stance, which became very clear at the end of the 10th round.

It is worth noting that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, had earlier expressed his disappointment and dissatisfaction for the same reason—over the makeup of the team that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has decided to dispatch to the region to follow the developments of the peace process.

PLO Leadership's Rejection of U.S. Paper Detailed

JN0607084093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 10

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee rejected Monday [5 July] a U.S. draft document aimed at bridging Palestinian-Israeli differences on Palestinian self-government in the occupied territories, and considered it unacceptable as a basis for peace negotiations, PLO officials said.

PLO said that future negotiations on interim self-government must be clearly based on the original terms of reference of the U.S.-led peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991, which aims at implementing U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The Executive Committee's position was conveyed to U.S. officials Sunday evening by the Palestinian delegates who attended the PLO leadership's meetings in Tunis. A PLO official said the organisation was also sending its final position attached to a copy of the American document to heads of Arab states involved in the peace process on Monday.

The PLO stressed that its rejection to deal with the U.S. document as a basis for negotiations, also meant that it was opposed to making any amendments to it, but this official position fell short of bluntly stating the PLO's rejection so that it would not be blamed for the failure of the peace process or for the withdrawal of U.S. efforts in the process, according to Palestinian officials in Tunis.

"The consensus in the Executive Committee was to reject the document because it represented total departure from previous American positions and a flagrant violation of the original terms of reference of the peace process," said Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab.

Palestinians and Israelis have attacked the American paper, and the U.S. warned both sides that its role could end if its assistance was not needed and that the U.S. will not impose itself in the peace process.

Palestinians said they still want the U.S. to play a role in the negotiating process, but "it has to play the role of honest broker, and not the spokesman of Israel as it did in the last document it had submitted to us."

PLO officials said that in its document, the U.S. failed to resolve the main points of contention between Israelis

and Palestinians, which are the status of Jerusalem and the extent of Palestinians' jurisdiction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The document has set new basis for the peace process, based only on resolutions 242 and 338, and the letters of invitation. The wording of some parts of the document was vague and could be differently interpreted by Israelis and Palestinians. The officials added that the U.S. had departed from its commitments mentioned in the letters of assurances, which were the basic American positions that helped bring Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table.

"The document contradicted the U.S. letters of assurances in which the American position was clearly stated concerning Jerusalem, the political rights of the Palestinian people, the principle of land for peace and the objective of the final status negotiations," said a senior PLO official.

The U.S. document dropped any reference to the principle of land for peace, when it said "the two sides agree that the objective of the peace proces is to reach a just,lasting and comprehensive peace settlement achieved through direct negotiations based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

In the letter of assurances presented to Palestinians on Oct. 18, 1991, the U.S. said it firmly believes that a comprehensvie peace should be built on the basis of "U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace."

The document also failed to refer to Palestinians as a people and it dropped any reference to their political rights. "These were clearly stated in the letter of assurances," the official said.

He said that the U.S. document stated that the "question" of Jerusalem, along with any other issues, could be raised only once negotiations on permanent status begin.

"This means that Israel is not committed to discuss the issue of Jerusalem when permanent status negotiations start, and it opens the door for possible annexation of Jerusalem and the right to claim sovereignty over the holy city in the fina stages," he said.

However, in the letter of assurances the U.S. clearly states that "we (the U.S.) do not recognise Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem or the expansion of its municipal boundaries...."

Furthermore, the letter of assurances states that the U.S. firm position continues to be that Jerusalem should not be divided again and that its final status must be determined in the negotiations.

The absence of clear U.S. reiteration on its previous position regarding Jerusalem alarmed Palestinians, and they considered it a retreat from previous American positions.

"The document does not state anywhere that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and worse still, the whole document implicity considers the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as disputed areas, not occupied lands," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. al-Najjab said that the document "ignores Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, and it ignores the existence of U.N. resolutions affirming Israeli occupation of these territories, and calling for its withdrawal."

Therefore, it gives Israel the same right as Palestinians to claim sovereignty over the occupatied territories at the end of the interim period, he said. In the letter of assurances, the U.S. said that the process they try to create provides the Palestinians with the means to achieve thir goals, and the "U.S. believes in the need to end Israel's occupation which can be achieved through meaningful negotiations...."

One point concerning Jerusalem that was mentioned in the letter of assurances and repeated in the U.S. document was that East Jerusalem Palestinians would vote in the elections for a Palestinian authority.

"Our clear position is that we will reject any agreement if it excludes Jerusalem from the jurisdiction of the interim Palestinian self-government," said another PLO official.

Palestinians say that Israeli siege imposed on East Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza Strip since late March is a unilateral action that preempts the outcome of the negotiations an the status of Jerusalem. This, they said, is an unacceptable flagrant violation of the basis of the peace process.

The document also offered Palestinians purely administrative jurisdiction in the occupied territories during the interim period, and powers transferred to Palestinians, agreed in negotiations, would be limited to people and not to land. It also divides the occupied territories into cantons, and Israelis (settlers) living in the occupied territories would be excluded from the Palestinian interim self-government responsibilities, PLO officials said.

Although the document granted Palestinians executive and legislative authority, it was limited to the areas of responsibility transferred to a Palestinian elected authority and pending prior agreement between Israel and Palestinians.

The document completely ignored any reference to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, whereas the previous American position, reiterated many times and in the letter of assurances, was that it viewed settlements as an obstacle to peace. "This document regards settlements as given, and gives Israel the right to maintain security over its nationals in the occupied territories," PLO officials said.

Abu-Sharif on U.S. Document, Readiness for Peace

NC0707071793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] What does the Palestinian side expect to see from coordination among the Arab parties negotiating with Israel now that the 10th round has ended without progress?

[Abu-Sharif] Palestinian-Arab coordination has existed since the peace process began. It will continue. We seek to create peace in the Middle East between Israel and all the parties concerned with the peace process. We cannot accept any initiative that serves a separate peace process between Israel and an Arab party. We coordinate continuously with Jordan; President Yasir 'Arafat is coordinating with King Husayn, with Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad, and Lebanon's President al-Hirawi.

[Al-Jundi] What about the Palestinian side's rejection of the U.S. working paper proposed at the 10th round of the peace negotiations?

[Abu-Sharif] To discuss rejecting or accepting that paper is a fallacy, because it is not an official paper. It is a draft working paper that contains ideas on which the parties concerned can comment. Eventually, the parties' answers to that paper will help reach a common denominator. The paper is bad, but it is an unofficial draft and the PLO leadership is now preparing a response to it. We study everything proposed by the Americans and put forward our view, which relies not on what we want, but on the bases of the peace process. We have accepted the letter of invitation and the principles therein. We have also accepted the U.S. letter of guarantees and its guarantees for the Palestinian people's political rights. So we demand nothing except that the United States implement its pledge to the Palestinian people.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say no final Palestinian answer to the U.S. ideas has been submitted?

[Abu-Sharif] It has not been submitted. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat visited Amman. He holds talks with his brothers in Egypt, and we hold talks with our brothers in Syria so that the Palestinian answer may be in line with our commitment to an answer that is coordinated with the Arab sides and that is not unilateral.

[Al-Jundi] In light of the outcome of the rounds of talks, can you confirm that the Palestinian side will participate in the next round without the possibility of any problems arising, as happened in the previous round?

[Abu-Sharif] Let me tell the truth. There is a sense of pain and frustration among the Palestinians and perhaps among all Arabs. We all listened to Warren Christopher's news conference, when he said 1993 is the year of the handover of power to a Palestinian self-government. We expect the United States to implement its pledge.

We want peace. We will continue to seek peace. I would like to say to the Voice of the Arabs—I know the Americans translate every word we say in Arabic, so let them all hear: Things in the Middle East will not remain the same, because if the peace process is delayed, other processes will not be. We say the United States now bears the full responsibility. For example, why doesn't the United States restore its ties with the PLO? I don't think President Clinton has any logical reason for not resuming these relations.

[Al-Jundi] Abu-Sharif, naturally you mean opening contact with the PLO, don't you?

[Abu-Sharif] Resuming, resuming the contact. They froze relations. We say to them that there is no logical reason for it. There are five or six ministers in the Israeli Government who support advancing the peace process.

Yesterday, I spoke on Israeli television with Israeli ministers in the studio. I said we are willing—because we want peace—I am willing to go to Tel Aviv to make a breakthrough [preceding word in English] and break the ice that Rabin and Clinton have formed, because we are peaceseekers on a just basis, that of international legitimacy. But we do not accept [as heard]. We are not Bosnia. The Palestinian nation is not the Bosnian nation. The Palestinian nation has resisted for 45 years and will resist for 45 more. No one can annihilate it. The Palestinian land is for the Palestinians. If the United States wants to make peace, we are ready. If it does not, we will continue the resistance.

Nusaybah Comments on 10th Round, U.S. Document

TA0607153193 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 5 Jul 93 p 16

[Interview with Sari Nusaybah, member of the guidance committee for the delegation to the peace talks, by 'Imad Musa after end of 10th round of negotiations; place not given]

[Text] Q: What did the Palestinians get by attending the 10th round of peace talks?

A: I don't think that this is the appropriate question to ask in regard to any particular round. To evaluate the negotiations, you have to evaluate them as a process. I believe that it is wrong to evaluate them on the basis of any one particular round.

It is clear that we are in the middle of a very difficult battle on the negotiating front. This is an extremely critical thing. We have not yet been able to agree on an

agenda, and now it has become apparent that this is just as difficult, if not more difficult, to agree on than a joint declaration.

However, it seems to me that one should evaluate the progress of the talks on the basis of the entire set of rounds that have taken place so far, and perhaps on the basis of other political factors. There is nothing wrong in investigating the possibility of alternative ways to go ahead with the peace process—for example, to try and investigate if there might be another framework or venue through which one might proceed.

Q: Do you think they will be looking for another venue as long as the Palestinians continue in the process, or does the situation necessitate a suspension?

A: I believe that the process itself, in the wider sense, cannot be suspended. As for the actual negotiations, which I believe are only part of this process, I think the time will come—and it's possible that it may have already come—when they will have suspended themselves, simply through the inability to produce any tangible results. In this case, all parties that are interested in the peace process must have an alternative to the continuation and to the achievement of a settlement.

Q: Are the Palestinians willing to take the blame for ending the negotiations, if they decide that they can't continue to go to Washington without any results?

A: The negotiations are not an end in themselves. Palestinians are engaged in the negotiations because they have a serious commitment and a serious interest in peace. But if they present negotiations, the existing framework, proves futile then the Palestinians—along with other partners which are also interested in the success of the process—should look into other means which might make them successful other than suspension or withdrawal from the peace process.

Then perhaps one should present alternatives to the framework. For example, perhaps the Palestinians should try to find a way to convince the different parties of the need to address the final- status talks immediately, without separate negotiations over this first.

In any case, rather than pull back and simply be angry or negative, the Palestinians should try to propose different methods and means for making the negotiations successful. The Israelis, on their part, as well as the Americans if they are serious in their commitment for the process, should then look upon the Palestinian proposal in a positive light as an attempt to circumvent the impasse.

Q: Given the current ground rules, what can the Palestinians realistically hope for from the Madrid peace conference?

A: If nothing changes in the framework, and if there is no positive progress towards a settlement whatsoever, then at least the Palestinians would have proven their commitment to peace. I think they would also have been successful through their involvement in preventing a settlement which might have been imposed in their absence. Therefore their involvement, I believe, has, as at minimum, a negative benefit.

One should also hope that, through the negotiations, it will be possible to achieve an end to the occupation. I believe that it would be premature on the part of the Palestinians to think that such a conclusion cannot be reached. I think the negotiations should be pursued through every means to the very end.

Q: Do you see any relationship between Israeli violations of human rights and the peace process in Washington?

A: I think the relationship indicates that Israel is using every means of pressure on the Palestinians in order to extract as many as possible in the negotiations. They are putting every type of pressure on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and also on the PLO. It is consistent with the attempt to get as many concessions from the delegation as possible. This seems to me to be a classic case of using force as an adjunct to the negotiations.

On the Palestinian side, they also call for the use of force against Israelis as a means of support for our negotiating position.

Q: In the peace camp, some Palestinians say the Intifada should escalate to pressure Israel, while others say the intifadah should be phased out to prove that the leadership can control the situation.

A: In any case the intifadah is an uprising of the people. It cannot be compared to the force used by Israel against the population, since that is organized and performed under instruction.

On the Palestinian side, the intifadah escalates or calms down depending on the public's mood, not in reaction to any particular instructions, especially political instructions. However, beyond the intifadah, and on the organized level, Israel's actions, or its attempt to use force alongside the negotiations encourages, within the Palestinian community, that organized force also be used. Military means against Israel are vindicated by Israeli practices.

Q: The closure has entered its fourth month, and the Palestinians either have no power or have not used any power to get it lifted. Are we looking at a permanent closure of Jerusalem?

A: Israel is obviously using this as an additional means of pressure on the Palestinians, as well as a means of unilaterally imposing its view on the status of Jerusalem. The Palestinians' only means of reaction to this pressure is not to submit to it.

In other words, not to the point of allowing this pressure to force them to make concessions they might not otherwise make or to give up their claim to Jerusalem.

Naturally, the Israeli inclusion of Jerusalem in the closure, although it is a political message from Israel, is one that can never be accepted as such a message by the Palestinians.

From the Palestinian point of view, the exclusion of Jerusalem means also the exclusion of a settlement.

Q: Is that why the Palestinians almost dedicated the 10th round to the issue of Jerusalem?

A: The Israelis have, in the meantime, been trying to bring unilateral action to define and predetermine the status of Jerusalem in advance of the negotiations. Therefore, the Palestinians have only reacted naturally by asking that it be put on the agenda.

As a matter of fact, the Palestinians have had it on the agenda from the first round. And we have never retracted our wish to have it on the agenda. If for Israel the "Gaza First" solution is a way into the negotiations, then for the Palestinians the "Jerusalem First" solutions is the only way into the negotiations.

Q: Did you see the U.S. document which was given to both sides?

A: I was only told about it verbally.

Q: From what you heard about it, what is your evaluation of it?

A: Not having studied it myself textually, I cannot at this moment give any particular reaction.

As I understand it, this is an attempt at sealing unbridgeable positions. I believe it is feasible to be looked upon as acceptable, especially given that fact that it is not as we understand it—a presentation of the American position.

In other words, since it is an attempt to bridge such contradictory positions, it is bound to look unconstructive. It requires at some crucial point an elaboration of the American position.

Also at some point, especially given Israeli intransigence and Israeli violations of international and Security Council resolutions, what is required... is also not just an elaboration of the American position, but also some active implementation of those positions.

Q: U.S. pressure, in other words?

A: The power of persuasion has many aspects, and especially in the case of Israel, where the country's economy is dependent on its relationship with the West. I believe that the international community can play more than just a facilitator, observer or a cheer leading role.

Negotiator Stresses Stance on Jerusalem Issue

TA0607185093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Jul 93 p 2

[By Rashid Hilal and Sa'idah Hamad]

[Text] Ramallah—Dr. Nabil Qassis, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said that if we look at the results of the 10th round, we cannot call that round a success because the results were not encouraging.

Qassis explained that he does not intend to pass judgment on each round's talks separately. He said that we went to the 10th round with the U.S. position on our minds. It was obvious to all of us that this position was biased towards Israel.

Qassis pointed out that the latest round actually began before the meetings with Israel. They were preceded by meetings with the U.S. side.

Qassis added that it became apparent through those meetings that the entire U.S. position was biased in favor of Israel. This position sees the terms of reference of the talks as being determined during the talks, not by the letter of invitation or international legitimacy.

Dr. Qassis stressed that the main issues raised by the Palestinians cannot be kept away from the table of negotiations. He said that the Israelis are seeking to remove the Jerusalem issue and the delineation of geographic jurisdiction from the table of negotiations.

The Palestinian delegation's deputy head emphasized that the Jerusalem issue figured in almost all of the 10th round's deliberations and from now on Jerusalem will remain the topic of negotiations. He noted that the Jerusalem issue cannot be postponed until the final stage. He said that we have established our position and it has become more convincing than before.

At the same time, Qassis stressed that if the Americans or the Israelis had entertained doubts on whether our position on substantive issues could change, the 10th round proved that our position remains and it is one of the Palestinian principles.

Qassis described the U.S. draft presented to the Palestinian side as worthless and not suitable to serve as a basis for negotiations. He said that we had hoped to reach a joint declaration of agreement and it would have been possible to achieve it had there had been a suitable U.S. draft from which we could proceed.

On the current Palestinian moves after the 10th round's failure, Qassis said that the Palestinian side will continue to explain its view on all the issues raised and insist on putting forward the same substantive issues at this period in particular. He added that if we want to continue the talks, one cannot imagine a declaration of principles that does not address substantive issues such as jurisdiction over land and the Jerusalem issue.

Qassis noted that the Palestinian moves will focus on further clarifying the problems, trying to find solutions to them, and putting forward new ideas. However, he refused to elaborate further at present.

With regard to setting a date for the 11th round, Qassis said that the Americans view the rounds as if they are continuous negotiations. He added that the Americans do not talk about rounds but about intervals for consultation. As for the Palestinian side, Qassis stressed that the Palestinians continue to view the talks as rounds and each round is preceded by a coordination meeting by the Arab parties taking part in the peace talks, where the date of the round is set.

Editorial Questions Intent of Christopher Remarks

TA0607193193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Jul 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Effectiveness of the U.S. Role Is the Guarantee of Its Continuity"]

[Text] Recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about his country's role in the peace process and the negotiations taking place within this process raise several questions about Christopher's intent.

On one hand, he links a continued U.S. role—despite its lack of effectiveness so far—to the desire of the negotiating parties. This link by itself is self-evident, because all the parties concerned, without exception, have expressed their desire for an active U.S. role. Moreover, the Palestinian side, in particular, has made the fulfillment of this role conditional to participating at least in the ninth and 10th rounds.

If, on the other hand, Christopher's remarks were aimed at a specific party, it would have been more appropriate to refer to that party clearly. Evidently, it can either be the Arab parties—the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese—or the Israeli.

Perhaps, the reproach was directed at the Palestinian and Israeli sides—and this is more likely—because the U.S. secretary of state was speaking with his eyes on the document presented by Washington as a compromise solution between the Palestinian and Israeli working papers on a declaration of principles. This, by itself, can be interpreted as a means of pressure on one or both of these parties to come closer to this document, which was rejected by the Palestinians and criticized by Israel.

What is better than the method of threats and pressure is to draft the document, or more precisely, to redraft it in accordance with the principles to which consecutive U.S. administrations and governments—since the era of former U.S. President Lyndon Johnson, in whose term the Arab territories were occupied in 1967—have committed themselves. All those administrations and governments affirmed that occupying the lands by force is inadmissible and rejected any unilateral Israeli actions in all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

As for neutral or generalized formulations that do not resolve clear-cut matters decisively, those can only lead to the automatic collapse of the U.S. role even if all the negotiating parties were to demand and call for this role, considering that it alone can promote the peace process if it is active and serious.

Christopher Warning Seen Aimed at Palestinians

TA0607183293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Christopher's Warning: Preparation for Ross's Tour"]

[Text] Apparently, the Israeli criticism of the document of U.S. "ideas" is merely a tactic to balance our categorical rejection of it. Hence, the extension of this tactic includes obtaining a U.S. "warning" or semi-warning to us and the Israeli side equally so that we—Palestinians and Israelis—will accept the U.S. document together.

This tactic, however, is totally exposed. The U.S. ideas, in their detail and entirety, are based on the Israeli position. They support that position in the transitional stage and the permanent settlement stage. So, why is Israel rejecting or criticizing those ideas? Is the entire question of criticism, rejection, or disappointment not just a ploy to bring U.S. pressure to bear on our side and not—naturally—on the Israeli side?

Such pressure is actually being exerted now. The warning issued by Warren Christopher two days ago to the Palestinian and Israeli sides has no connection, in fact, with the Israeli side except in terms of "covering up and throwing sand in the eyes." At the same time, this warning is firmly and instantly linked to our Palestinian position and is completely against it, because our position is contrary to the proposed U.S. ideas and their Israeli origin.

Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, will be arriving to the region within two days carrying the file of those ideas to market and promote them in Arab capitals. Regardless, it is clear in advance that the file will be returned to Washington by Ross himself without having obtained the agreement of a single Arab capital to the paragraph in which Jerusalem is not mentioned. So, what is the use of Christopher's warning or the Israeli side's tactic if that file remains as it is now—in a dark tunnel?

Hamas Spokesman Rejects 'Arafat 'Umbrella'

PM0207153893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 93 p 5

[Report on telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas in Amman, by 'Ali al-Salih in London "yesterday"]

[Text] Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] official spokesman has said that his movement rejects dialogue

within PLO frameworks, because these frameworks, according to him, are controlled by 'Arafat and promote his line of coexistence with the Zionist enemy.

Ibrahim Ghawshah accused 'Arafat of monopolizing decisionmaking and refusing to consult others or adhere to collective decisions. He confirmed the existence of a big gap between Hamas and those whom he called 'Arafat's group in the Fatah Central Committee.

Ghawshah said that the differences that emerged in the Fatah Central Committee meetings are natural because of the political and organizational violations committed by 'Arafat.

Hamas' official spokesman denied that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt had mediated to reconcile the PLO and Hamas. He stressed that he had no knowledge of such a mediation.

This came in a telephone interview that AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT conducted with Ghawshah in the Jordanian capital yesterday.

Asked whether Hamas accepts a dialogue within the PLO framework, as proposed by 'Arafat, Ghawshah said: "We expressed our willingness to engage in a comprehensive national dialogue to which all the Palestinian forces inside and outside [the occupied territories] are invited, provided the current negotiations in Washington, which have proved a failure and futile, are suspended and that the dialogue is conducted in a neutral country. Because we refuse to hold the dialogue under 'Arafat's umbrella within the PLO framework and the Palestine National Council framework. This is because we believe that any dialogue within these two frameworks, which are controlled by 'Arafat, will support his line of peaceful coexistence with the Zionist enemy, recognition of its entity, and forfeiture of Palestine's territory."

Ghawshah believes that 'Arafat is opposed to this dialogue because it conflicts with his domination of Palestinian decisionmaking.

Hamas' official spokesman denied that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt or Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan had embarked on any mediation between Fatah and Hamas, stressing that no one had instructed these parties to mediate.

In his meeting with Egyptian newspapers the day before yesterday, 'Arafat said that Hani al-Hasan is on a committee currently making reconciliation endeavors between the PLO and Hamas after the Muslim Brotherhood's and al-Turabi's mediation failed to achieve reconciliation as a result of the refusal of the Hamas leadership in Jordan to improve the relationship with the PLO.

Ghawshah said that "the dialogue with Fatah was open and direct in Tunis at the end of 1992 and in Khartoum early in 1993." He went on: "But 'Arafat's attitudes torpedoed all the attempts aimed at finding common denominators between Hamas and Fatah. This is in the knowledge that we succeeded in a number of dialogues with Fatah Central Committee members, the most recent of which was the meeting with 'Abbas Zaki in Amman in March. But 'Arafat always worked to thwart these dialogues.

Ghawshah believes that " 'Arafat is proposing the dialogue as a tactic, not as a strategy, since the nature of his leadership of the Palestinian people rejects consultation, dialogue, and adherence to collective decisions." He went on to say that "we believe that the historic stage is more crucial and more important than these tactics which 'Arafat is trying to apply. The people have had their say on their blessed intifadah and continue to back this with intifadah activities and jihad operations against the Zionist occupation and in the face of the big conspiracy against Palestine's territory and Jerualem's future."

He added that "the people are currently defining the orientations of the next stage by rejecting autonomy, continuing the intifadah, and adhering to the territory of Palestine, all Palestine, whatever the U.S. and Israeli pressures and no matter who deals with them."

Ghawshah pointed out that "Hamas is now separated from 'Arafat and his group by a big gap caused by contradictory political positions vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue and also the differing views over the nature of the the conflict with the Zionist enemy. 'Arafat is currently engaged in a normalization process with Israel at all levels inside and outside." He also said that "this normalization process has existed for two decades, but it is now in full swing." On the differences that took place at the Fatah Central Committee meetings in Tunis last week, Ghawshah said: "We believe that what happened in the Fatah Central Committee is natural because of the political and organizational violations 'Arafat has committed against the Palestinian people's interests." He added that "Hamas does not accept that 'Arafat should exploit it for the sake of uniting the various views in Fatah against Hamas on the basis that Hamas is an external adversary."

Ghawshah emphasized that "Hamas considers Fatah a historical sister in the Palestinian struggle arena which has played a role in the struggle." He said that "Hamas aspires to build national unity on solid foundations with Fatah and the other Palestinian factions and forces."

On the accusation leveled at Hani al-Hasan regarding his mediation with the Qatari Government to receive a delegation from Hamas, Ghawshah said that "that is absolutely baseless, because the arrangements were made by the Qatari Government itself and through Qatari channels." He stressed the cordial relationship between Hamas and Hani al-Hasan and a number of Fatah Central Committee members with whom they [Hamas members] meet in unofficial meetings.

Kuwait To Resume Educational Aid to Territories

TA0607142093 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] AL-NAHAR has learned from sources close to the Amir's palace in Kuwait that orders have been issued to Kuwait's Fiance Minister to transfer immediately $100,000 to the office of Rawhi al-Khatib [former mayor of Jerusalem] in Amman in the account of the "Jerusalem Fund."

Those sources also said that the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and his prime minister are currently studying a number of issues, among which is funding and supporting higher educational and academic institutions, societies, and centers in Jerusalem and the occupied territories in general and that a list of these institutions is being prepared in consultation with the officials concerned in Kuwait and some Palestinian figures in the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

'Financial Siege' of Gulf Aid to PLO Seen

TA0207141993 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Sari Nusaybah, head of the political committees in the occupied territories, has disclosed the existence of a financial siege on the PLO. This coincides with the Israeli military and economic siege imposed on the occupied territories to force the Palestinian side into accepting the U.S. and Israeli viewpoints in the Washington talks.

Nusaybah told QUDS PRESS that "since the suspension of Gulf financial aid to the Palestinian people, through the PLO, the extent of the connection between this and the economic siege imposed by Israel on the occupied territories became very clear. This created an objective link between the two blockades." Nusaybah stressed that "the message to the Palestinians during the ninth and 10th rounds was very clear. It was that lifting the financial siege depends on accepting the U.S. paper and participating in a tripartite meeting comprised of the Israelis, the Americans, and the Palestinians." Nusaybah also confirmed reports to the effect that Saudi Arabia has sent invitations to Palestinians and institutions within the occupied territories to receive financial aid outside the PLO's framework.

In this context, Nusaybah mentioned a Saudi proposal presented to Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Al-Husayni was informed of Saudi Arabia's readiness to deposit $14 million in his personal bank account in the event that he agreed to this proposal.

Nusaybah said that al-Husayni turned down this proposal. He said, "The current siege's objective is the PLO and its perception of the nature of a just settlement of our problem." Al-Husayni pointed out that such a proposal "would undermine our national rights, which we can only obtain through the PLO."

Nusaybah noted that "Saudi Arabia and the United States might try to bring to prominence some Palestinian figures inside the occupied territories by providing them with financial and political support so that they would be the address to look for." Nusaybah warned against the possibility that some people might agree to the direct transfer of funds to the occupied territories and said that "such a step will directly harm the heart of the Palestinian cause." Nusaybah explained that "this development will not only constitute a circumvention of the PLO in the financial sphere but also of the legal and historic Palestinian right." Nusaybah stressed that "a vicious political and financial campaign is being waged against the PLO's existence" and called for "resisting this campaign." He criticized the stance of those who have recently been talking at length about the PLO's financial crisis and attributing it to a lack of discipline and careless spending. He asked: "Where were they when the PLO was being inundated with funds?"

Algeria

HSC's Kafi Addresses Nation on Independence Day

LD0507085493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Independence Day address by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. Prayers and peace be on the most honorable messenger.

Citizens, on this great day, the day of national independence, I present my warmest congratulations to the Algerian people hoping that this day will bring our country good, assurance, and stability. Independence Day is the day of sovereignty, freedom, and dignity. It is the day of joy, assurance and hope.

However, fate wanted the Algerian nation to be plagued with a deviant part of the society which disturbs our lives, deprives our sons the joy of independence and snatches hope away from them.

Citizens, the independence of Algeria, which we celebrate, is not an ordinary one. The Algerian people have paid for this independence with their dearest and best sons. [passage omitted]

The only legitimate aspiration today is to preserve the entity of Algeria and the values of the Algerian nation. This noble aspiration is the complete opposite of base selfishness, blatant opportunism, short-sightedness and close-mindedness.

Starting from that, the Higher State Council has opened a comprehensive and deep dialogue with all the partners in society, which are the political parties, popular organizations and societies, with the exception of those that practice terrorism or support it physically or morally.

This dialogue is aimed at mobilizing the resources of the nation, closing its ranks, finding the best way to get out of the crisis, and establishing a civilized basis for the political and social dialogue, without which we can never aspire to establishing a civilized democratic society rich with a variety and resources. The Higher State Council expects the partners in the dialogue and expects the society, particularly the the youth, to present constructive proposals at the level of the gravity of the situation.

The Higher State Council does not want any marginal discussions that could fan the fire of strife and escalate the conflict over power for transient political aims and interests that contradict the nature of the historic responsibility which we all shoulder.

Brothers, sisters, and youth, the aim of the Higher State Council is to liquidate the roots and origins of the crisis completely; to establish a wide renewal movement in the structure and institutions of the state; to organize the national political life; to renew the leadership of the country by opening the way for the young cadres and youth to shoulder their responsibility in leading and managing the nation and to create new conditions for establishing an economic, social, and scientific revival that would enable the country to prosper and remove the chronic crises that face the youth.

The reality of the radical transformation which the country is experiencing is due to the new and strong dynamism of the youth of independence. The youth are now presenting new social, cultural, and political demands. The youth now aspire to participate in power and in the management of the country. The regime was unable to fulfil these demands and respond to them. These demands today dictate a revision of the organizational bases of the country at the political, economic, and social levels.

This change, which we have started, should be organized and rational. This change, by its nature is expensive. The extremist elements and conservative forces, who oppose the change or want to postpone it, are working toward increasing the cost of the change by their sabotage actions, their disturbances, and their pursuit of weakening the institutions of the state.

The aspiration to a clear future and to establishing the change under modern conditions has prompted us to form the committee of Algerian experts to carry out a comprehensive study of the major dossiers of the country and to draw up a comprehensive picture of our actions so that we do not lose our way in the labyrinth of improvisation.

However, the forces of extremism extend their hands to assassinate the scientists, cadres and the nation's young soldiers, gendarmerie, and security men who work toward lighting the way of the nation and protecting its security and independence. Whatever the forces of terrorism and extremism and the forces opposing change might be, they will not distract us from establishing the transformations demanded by reality and from responding to the aspirations of our youth.

The distinguished qualities, which our youth enjoy, should be directed toward building Algeria—a strong modern Algeria capable of facing up to the conflicts dictated by the modern world and imposed by the 21st century with all its challenges.

Today, on this great occasion of celebrating Independence Day, we call on our youth to rise up to the level of the historic responsibility demanded by Algeria. We call on our youth to establish the suitable framework for organizing themselves as a united harmonious force able to draw up and achieve the aim. We call on our youth to avoid the hated bias and the divisive conflicts whatever their slogans might be. We call on the youth to understand that responsibility is influence and ability, but it is first and foremost work done in the field.

While it is working toward making the country safely overcome its crisis, the Higher State Council does not spare any effort in supporting any initiative presented by the youth. This is to enable the youth to fulfill their mission and shoulder the responsibility put by the nation on their shoulders. [passage omitted]

Minister Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt

LD0407143793 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] In Algeria, the independent newspaper AL-WATAN has announced that Algerian Minister of Equipment Mokhdad Sifi escaped an assassination attempt during an official visit to Tizi-Ouzou Province.

Court Passes Death Sentence on Killer of Gendarmes

LD0407225693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] This afternoon the Constantine special court passed one death sentence and three terms of life imprisonment, all in absentia.

[Correspondent] The Constantine special court had been meeting since this morning to discuss the Grarem-Bougaa affair, which goes back to 8 October 1992, when three gendarmes were killed in a cowardly way. The accused, four in number, of whom three are still on the run—El Kaid Malek, nicknamed Selim; Sahraoui Toufiki; and Moussa Abdelkhatir—were accused of premeditated murder and complicity.

This afternoon, after more than two hours of deliberation, the Constantine special court gave its verdict: the death sentence in absentia for El Kaid Malek and life imprisonment for Moussa Abdelkhatir and Sahraoui Toufiki, also in absentia. Meshi Hacene, the only one of the accused who was present in court, was sentenced to life imprisonment. These last three will be deprived of their civil rights for three years.

Constantine Court Jails 6 on Charges of Terrorism

LD0707073293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The special judicial court of Constantine today looked into the involvement of two dangerous groups in terrorist acts. The details are in this report from Constantine radio station:

In the first case a group of persons, called the Barika group, was accused. The most important charge leveled against those people is trading in firearms. According to the indictment report, the second group was prosecuted on a number of charges, the most important of which are: belonging to a terrorist and subversive group for infringing on state security, attempting to sabotage public institutions, spreading terror among the population, creating an atmosphere of insecurity and attacking properties, failing to report a crime, publishing and distributing provocative leaflets, possessing firearms without a licence, attempting to carry out assassinations. [passage omitted]

The special judicial court passed the following sentence on the accused in the two cases:

The first case: Benaissa Brahim, one year's imprisonment; Rahabi Mohamed, Nefissi Abdelali, and Nefessi Aabderrahman, six months' imprisonment.

The second case: Salhi Faisal, five years' imprisonment, and Kachaou Abdelkader, six years' imprisonment.

Two sentences were passed in absentia on two accused who are on the run, i.e. Seghiri Salah and Bendhib Abdelbaki. The death sentence was passed on the former, and 25 years imprisonment on the latter.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Rahman's Followers Assail U.S. Policy

PM0707095993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jul 93 pp1, 4

[Jamal Khashuqji report from New York plus unattributed reports from Washington and Cairo: "Fears in Egypt and Warning to the Americans of Possible Retaliation"]

[Excerpts] After 20 hours of negotiations and deliberations, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] in Egypt, finally gave himself up to the U.S. federal authorities Friday-Saturday night [2-3 July]. [passage omitted]

The State Department has issued a warning to Americans urging them to be careful when traveling abroad "for fear of strong reaction." It called on its nationals abroad to be vigilant and follow developments. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Egyptian security sources in Cairo have confirmed that legal steps will soon be taken to have Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman extradited following the warrant for his arrest issued by the al-Fayyum court, which orders that he be brought before it in connection with the case in which 48 of his followers have been accused of attacking the authorities and the public and possessing unlicensed arms and explosives—the reference is to the incidents of April 1989.

While stringent security measures were introduced yesterday at U.S. installations and interests in Egypt as a precaution against reprisals by extremists in the wake of the al-Fayyum court's decision and the annoucement of 'Abd-al-Rahman's arrest in New York, AL-HAYAH's office received by fax a statement that did not say where it was sent from but carried the signature of "al-Jama'ah

al-Islamiyah in Egypt." It carried the headline "The arrest of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman between the fall of the masks and the cutting of the tongues." It said: "As it watched the sensational Rambo-style arrest of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman Friday, 2 July 1993, the world did not need more such scenes to clearly see that flagrant exposed American face without its deceptive gloss and without the false masks that Uncle Sam and his feeble slaves have used as pretexts for their new world order: Freedom, justice, human rights, and opposition to repression, injustice, detention, and torture. Having seen the actions in the Gulf, Somalia, and Bosnia, and, finally, the action against 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, people realized that these slogans were nothing but empty words used to mislead and deceive or used for certain nations but not others."

It added: "One wonders as he sees a state that claims to be the mightiest in the world mobilizing all its organs, from CNN to the FBI to the Pentagon to the nuclear stations, all for what? To arrest a sick blind shaykh against whom no charge has been proven as they themselves admit. But God has given him a tremendous hidden strength that, with God's will, makes the toughest infidel renegade regimes that are opposed to God's shari'ah and religion tremble." It continued: "We say that the detention of our shaykh, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, will not move a hair on his head and, God willing, will not undermine his steadfastness and determination in the slightest. God willing, he will remain, as we have known him, strong like a mighty mountain. In fact, we believe that his detention will cut off or actually has cut off the tongues of those liars who have recently made deliberate fabrications and falsehoods about his link with the United States and the West."

It added: "But we also say that the matter does not only concern the shaykh, for he, as we have known him to be, is like Bin-Hanbal, Bin-Tumaymah, and others. It is a matter that concerns every Muslim who cares about his religion, his Islam. The question is: Until when will the Muslim sanctitities continue to be violated while they [Muslims] remain silent? Until when will this diabolical, juvenile, and troublesome U.S. policy continue? We will add nothing more except to say that God is our guide and best guardian."

Lawyers Warn of Reprisals for Shaykh's Detention

NC0607172193 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 6 (AFP)—The lawyer of blind Islamic preacher Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman warned Tuesday [6 July] of an "individual" act of reprisals against U.S. targets in retaliation for the cleric's detention in the United States.

"The fear of reprisals exists and cannot be ruled out because the shaykh has many followers," Muntasir al-Zayyat told a news conference in Cairo, which was also attended by 'Abd-al-Rahman's 16-year-old son 'Abdallah.

But he stressed that any retaliation would be "an individual act" which he said would be carried out without the cleric's knowledge.

Al-Zayyat also recalled that 'Abd-al-Rahman has called for restraint from his followers and urged them to give a civilised image of Islam when he surrendered to the U.S. authorities on Friday after a 20-hour standoff.

Another lawyer, 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur, said he was "certain" the United States would not extradite the 55-year-old spiritual guide of Egypt's outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] to stand trial here on charges of organising an anti-government protest in 1989. Egypt requested his extradition on Sunday.

He noted that 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is held in the United States on charges of illegal entry, had not been indicted and that legally this meant the U.S. authority could not extradite him.

Some of the cleric's followers have been charged in plots to carry out a wave of terrorism in New York.

'Abd-al-Rahman has asked for political asylum in the United States after the authorities there revoked his residency permit but the request was turned down and he is now appealing a March deportation order, Mandur said.

He also expected the U.S. legal procedures to drag on. "In the meantime either his appeal for political asylum will be accepted or it will be turned down and Shaykh 'Umar will be able to leave for a country of his choice."

Mandur also denied the validity of an extradition treaty between Egypt and the United States, which the U.S. Embassy in Cairo says dates back to the Ottoman period.

And he accused the United States of bowing to "Zionist pressure" to arrest 'Abd-al-Rahman despite lack of evidence against him.

"Shaykh 'Umar is a symbol of Islam, just like the pope is a symbol of Christianity," he said adding that the campaign against the blind cleric was aimed at Islam and Muslims.

The two lawyers also denied any financial or political links between 'Abd-al-Rahman and Iran.

A Muslim fundamentalist activist on trial in Egypt for the June 1992 assassination of secular author Faraj Fudah meanwhile warned that the United States would not dare extradite 'Abd-al-Rahman to stand trial in Egypt.

"The United States, anxious to protect its interests abroad, fears unleashing a confrontation with Islamic movements around the world," said Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani on Monday.

"It is not in the interests of the Americans to hand over Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to the despotic regime in Egypt," he warned.

'Abd-al-Ghani is considered to be the military chief of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which has waged a campaign of violence since March 1992 to overthrow the secular government of President Husni Mubarak.

More than 165 people, including three foreign tourists, have been killed.

Police meanwhile captured Tuesday two "extremely dangerous" Muslim militants on the run for more than three years, Majdi Zinhum al-Safti and 'Abdallah Hasanayn Abu-al-'Ila.

Columnist Says FBI Fabricated New York Bombing Plot

NC0607161093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 8

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah's "Close-Up" column: "The United States Plants Violence!"]

[Text] During his few months in the White House, President Clinton has succeeded in reducing U.S. credibility in the Arab world to zero or close to it. It seems the U.S. Administration has not yet understood that the Iraqi regime's isolation and the lack of confidence in Saddam Husayn do not mean that the Arab world approves the punitive measures and missile strikes to which the United States resorts every now and then outside the framework of international legitimacy. These strikes kill innocent people and increase the Arab public's support for Saddam Husayn. The ordinary Arab citizen sees that the U.S. recourse to military strength to deal with the Arabs has become the only instrument of persuasion in Clinton's era.

Criticism of the United States in the Arab world is increasing. The United States is ready to act quickly and firmly to attack the Muslims in Somalia and Iraq. However, it is not ready to punish the Serbs for their crimes of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia or to reprimand Israel for its crimes in the occupied territories.

U.S. policy has efficiently succeeded in maintaining the state of tension and fear in the Gulf between the Arab states and Iraq, between Iraq and Iran, and between Iran and the Arab states. This is the best atmosphere to encourage the state of violence and terrorism in the region.

Therefore, there are question marks regarding the plot uncovered by the FBI and allegedly hatched by a group of unemployed taxi drivers to bomb several targets in New York. After a U.S. investigator declared that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is the instigator of this plot, in which five persons carrying Sudanese passports are accused, the U.S. Justice Department announced that it does not have enough evidence to arrest the shaykh or to accuse another state, namely Sudan.

Most probably, these successive plots that the FBI has specialized in uncovering or fabricating are not based on concrete evidence. Keeping Saddam in Iraq and keeping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman in New York aim at feeding the atmosphere of violence, extremism, terrorism, and fear in the region. The discovery of a plot to assassinate Bush in Kuwait is similar to the discovery of a plot by Sudanese Muslims to destroy the United States. They are all suspicions, doubts, and tricks perpetrated by the U.S. intelligence services to divide the Arab world and prevent its solidarity and cohesion.

This means we should not expect the United States to be a benefactor in the Arab world or to abandon its double standard in dealing with the Middle East and Israel. This is the message President Clinton has tried to send recently.

U.S. Inability To Find 'Abd-al-Rahman Questioned

NC0607150993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Jul 93 p 1

["Comment" by "AL-AHRAM political editor"]

[Text] Reports from the United States about the disappearance of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman are a comedy, or rather a real farce.

We would have believed these reports if the matter concerned a weak, disintegrated state. But we do not have to believe them when the matter involves the United States. Are we expected to believe that the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, has failed to locate 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and that he has escaped from this mighty intelligence apparatus? Are we expected to believe that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations, the FBI, as well—with the might it enjoys in the United States—has failed to figure out the shaykh's whereabouts?

Was it necessary to bring guards from the Third World, believed not to be strong enough by the United States, to monitor the shaykh's movements?

Once again, what is this farce? Why then was a decision issued to put the shaykh in custody? Were his whereabouts not known before the decision was made? Was he in his home or elsewhere?

Second, were the mighty American apparatuses unaware of the shaykh's whereabouts when the decision was made? And, after all the long, audiovisual media coverage of 'Abd-al-Rahman, were there not guards around his house to monitor the movements of the shaykh, whose movements were reported in sound and vision?

Being blind, was Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman bigger than the conspiracy Iraq had prepared to assassinate former U.S. President Bush? Did the American agencies not monitor the movements of the shaykh, who conspired to blow up the United Nations building and vital utilities in New York, although they monitored the movements of and punished a Middle East state that conspired to assassinate Bush?

These are truly important and serious questions that need answers—answers no less important or serious than the damage that will affect the credibility the United States wants to protect.

When we see that the superpower that controls the world and its life does not have the degree of credibility it wants for itself, we might lose control of our thoughts, concepts, and understanding of the course of events.

Paper Urges U.S. To See 'Importance' of Extradition

NC0707082693 Cairo MENA in English 0739 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Egypt is serious in pursuing a fair retribution vis-a-vis those who abuse the country and try to smear the dignity of their homeland through hollow allegations and rash acts of terrorism, said AL-AHRAM in its editorial today.

The paper was commenting on the official request made by Egypt to the United States to extradite Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in accordance with a verdict passed by a regional supreme state security court.

Quoting the U.S. secretary of state as saying that the extradition process is under way, AL-AHRAM called on the U.S. "to appreciate the importance of this request."

Al-Fayyum Resident Linked With 'Abd-al-Rahman Arrested

NC0607171993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1644 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 6 Jul (MENA)—Security forces in al-Fayyum today arrested Ramadan Rashad 'Abd-al-Qadir, an extremist wanted in connection with the al-Shuhada' Mosque incidents, which also involve Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and other terrorist elements.

The defendant was referred to the Supreme State Security Prosecution for interrogation.

The arrest was based upon a decision by the al-Fayyum criminal court in Case 258 of 1989, concerning the al-Shuhada' Mosque incidents.

Mubarak Addresses Navy on Sudan, Shaykh's Arrest

NC0607152093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made a statement following President Mubarak's meeting with the commanders and officers of the Navy today. He said the meeting reflected the president's care to put the men of the Armed Forces in the picture and to talk to them candidly about the various policies, particularly those involving the homeland's security and safety. The president answered all their questions, al-Sharif said.

The president emphasized that Egypt is eager to establish good relations with the world, because these relations facilitate and consolidate cooperation with the outside world, both East and West, and with all states, large and small.

President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt's international relations are in the interests of all citizens, and accordingly, of the homeland. He remarked that the social dimension is a basic factor that governs any political decision.

Touching on his meeting with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, Mubarak pointed out that it was free from all the conditions that preceded it, that it was held in a frank and candid climate, and that it dealt with the various aspects of our relations frankly on both sides.

The president reiterated that he is eager to establish good and strong relations with Sudan and to resolve any outstanding disputes. He added that he had agreed with al-Bashir that the foreign ministers of both countries should meet to discuss all these issues. He underlined the need to provide a good and favorable climate that enhances understanding and brings viewpoints closer. I hope our relations with fraternal Sudan will be good, Mubarak said.

Speaking about a ministerial reshuffle, the president noted that it is natural to make changes after the presidential elections, after the government resigns.

As for selecting a vice president, Mubarak remarked that the matter will be considered when he finds the suitable personality. I welcome any assistance in sharing the burden and duties, Mubarak said.

Commenting on Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition, Mubarak remarked that the media have used this subject for a different purpose. He stated that the government has requested his extradition upon the request of the Egyptian judiciary.

Mubarak commented on foreign media reports about Egypt's manufacture of the American M1 tank in cooperation with the United States. He said the Egyptian tank factory was attacked by certain mass media because it is a successful project that seeks to manufacture this modern tank, maintain its parts, and train our cadres in this modern technology—one of the most modern in the world—as well as provide local maintenance to various armored vehicles.

Touching on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, al-Sharif stated that the president pointed out that the Egyptian action in this connection is within the framework of a decision by the Islamic Conference Organization and Egypt's participation in the peacekeeping force there.

The president asserted that the door is open to anyone who wants to travel there. He remarked, however, that using that issue for the acts of sabotage, anarchy, or

collection of money that occurred under the name of supporting Afghanistan will not happen again. We have to be realistic and to understand the nature of our problems. We have to safeguard the strength and cohesion of our country, because nobody but the Egyptians will build Egypt. There is no place for anarchy or for being carried away by inapplicable slogans that are meant for local consumption, Mubarak stressed.

On terrorism and some issues raised by human rights organizations, Mubarak noted that terrorism is a worldwide and not a local phenomenon confined to Egypt and the Middle East. Recent events have proved the correctness of this concept and view. He said we deal with outlaws, terrorists, and criminals within the framework of the law. He then referred to the concept of human rights. He said the concept of human rights is that I defend the people's right to be safe and secure. I refuse that human rights be a slogan or opening for protecting terrorists who kill innocent people. This I will never accept. Human rights should not be a means for interfering in our domestic affairs. This is also rejected.

On the economic reform programs, Mubarak said the government will not take any measures that will affect the citizens and that any new steps or burdens will be submitted to parliament. He said a final agreement between Egypt and the IMF will be signed in the coming weeks. This means that some of Egypt's external debts will either be reduced or written off.

On Egypt's African role in light of the results of the OAU summit held recently in Cairo, Mubarak said Egypt's prestige in Africa is real and firm. Egypt has consistently and historically supported the African issues. Egypt harbors respect for the leaders and peoples of Africa. For this reason, Egypt was elected chairman of the OAU five years ago and was reelected for another term.

Mubarak praised the outcome of the OAU summit. The African leaders expressed admiration for Egypt's industrial, construction, and media progress. The convening of the OAU in Cairo represented Egypt's high status on the international, African, and Arab levels.

Mubarak stressed that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is eager to participate in every African action but some circumstances prevented him from attending and participating in the OAU summit in Cairo.

On reports that Nile waters will be pumped to other states that are not Nile basin countries, Mubarak said we have no plans to pump Nile waters to any country. The Nile waters are being used according to agreements that we respect. Moreover, we do not have a surplus to give to other states. Water has become scarce all over the world. We must preserve it and ration its use.

Regarding terrorist operations in which several innocent citizens have been killed and why foreign intelligence agencies could not be behind them, Mubarak said that jumping to conclusions that are not based on firm information and facts is a dangerous affair. It diverts the attention of the masses to other parties and makes them focus on parties other than the real terrorists who cause these criminal acts. This analysis aims to cause confusion. We must not pay attention to it, because matters are clear. Those who commit these criminal acts are known to all.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the meeting was an opportunity for the armed forces to express their appreciation and admiration of Mubarak's wise policy on a number of domestic and foreign issues.

Comments on Peace Process

TA0607191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will meet the PLO leadership later this week. Mubarak will try to persuade Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the U.S. compromise proposal and to make room for a first-ever Israeli-Palestinian agreement. President Mubarak said this in an interview with Israel television following his meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria. In their meeting, Mubarak told Peres he believes that Syrian President al-Asad is delaying the agreement with Israel in order to prepare his nation for the age of peace. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returned to Israel this evening following a two-day visit to Egypt. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] [passage omitted] President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Peres both believe that the Palestinians will not withdraw from the peace talks. Peres and Mubarak agreed that changes can be introduced into the U.S. paper and that an autonomy in the territories that both the Israelis and Palestinians can live with is imminently attainable. The mood in today's meeting was good, and Mubarak invited us to join him on the veranda of Alexandria's al-Tin Palace.

[Mubarak, in English] I hope—and we are doing our best—that something could be concluded in the very near future.

[Sukenik, in English] Are you going to meet some Palestinian leader, maybe Mr. 'Arafat, in the next days? And what will you tell him?

[Mubarak, in English] About what I am going to tell him, I am not going to tell you details, but I will persuade him to hurry up and to continue the negotiations and to achieve success, because it is very important. I ask them for flexibility, as well as we are asking the Israelis for some flexibility—I will tell the Palestinians the same.

[Sukenik, in English] So you don't think that the Palestinians should be disappointed from the American draft?

[Mubarak, in English] Look, I personally didn't see the American draft, but it will be a basis for negotiations. It's not a holy book, but maybe some basis which we could

use. If they need some amendment, need some clarification, adding something, excluding something—as a paper just to persuade the parties to continue, or to help the participants.

[Sukenik] Shim'on Peres said that Israel and Egypt agree on 90 percent of the issues, and there are only two points of controversy. President Mubarak believes that the joint document with the Palestinians should state that the problem of Jerusalem demands solution. He also believes that it should make some mention of the territorial aspect in reference to the Palestinian self-government. Peres believes that the gap is one of definition rather than practice, but he nevertheless opposed the changes.

The U.S. peace team will launch its shuttle mission to our region in Israel on Thursday [8 July]. At the same time PLO leaders are slated to meet President Mubarak in Egypt. Judging by the results of Foreign Minister Peres' talks in Egypt, it is possible to say that Israel, Egypt, and the United States are expected to exert heavy pressure on the Palestinians in order to induce them to return immediately to the peace talks. [end recording]

Official Goes to Moscow With Message for Kozyrev

NC0607094593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's political adviser, left Cairo this morning for Moscow.

Ambassador Fahmi stated before his departure that he will deliver a message from 'Amr Musa to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Egypt's concern over the importance of stopping the Serb aggression on the Bosnian people.

Ambassador Fahmi said that during his visit to Moscow, he will head Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the steering committee tasked with following the discussions of the five committees that stem from the multilateral talks. The steering committee will begin its meetings on Wednesday.

The five committees are the disarmament, economic affairs, environment and growth, refugees, and water.

Sailor Charged With Spying for Israel Interrogated

NC0307202293 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

[Report by Khadijah 'Afifi]

[Text] The Supreme State Security prosecution is interrogating an Egyptian sailor accused of spying for Israel. The defendant has provided Israel with information and security reports for six years. He confessed to Chief Prosecutor 'Ali al-Hawwari that he has been receiving monthly payments and gifts and was trained in spying by the Israeli Mosad.

The Supreme State Security Prosecution is undertaking extensive investigations into a new spying case involving a 40-year-old Egyptian sailor who has been spying for Israel for six years.

The prosecution charged the sailor with spying for a foreign state in order to harm national interests, receiving money in exchange for spying, and falsifying official papers. The investigation is being led by Chief Prosecutor 'Ali al-Hawwari, under the supervision of Counselor Muhsin Mabruk, the prosecution's general attorney.

The National Security Authority has monitored the defendant's movements and contacts with Israel and discovered that he was spying for Israel and providing it with information and security reports about vital institutions in Egypt. The defended was caught in possession of documents, important papers, and special spying paraphernalia.

Investigations revealed that the defendant has been practicing this activity inside and outside Egypt for six years. He was trained by the Israeli intelligence apparatus in the Israeli Embassies in Turkey and Cyprus in return for monthly payments and valuable gifts.

Judicial Source Denies Reports

NC0407060193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] A senior judicial source has denied reports published yesterday about the Egyptian sailor who has been accused of spying. The source denied that the sailor had revealed secrets about Egypt, explaining that the sailor was arrested six months ago.

The Egyptian security apparatus had received information asserting that the sailor committed acts that tarnish Egypt's image and indulged abroad in spying against a foreign state where he worked for Israel's interests.

Investigations launched by Chief Prosecutor 'Ali al-Hawwari, under the supervision of counselors 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud and Muhsin Mabruk, resulted in the defendant's arrest during a visit to his family. He confessed that he had leaked information to Israeli intelligence on the foreign state where he worked. He added that he met Mosad officials several years ago.

The defendant was remanded in custody for another 45 days pending investigations.

Newspapers Critical of U.S. Attack on Baghdad

NC0707103293

[Editorial Report] Two Cairo Arabic-language papers, AL-WAFD and AL-JUMHURIYAH, carry articles on 29 and 30 June assailing the recent U.S. raid on Iraq:

In a 450-word editorial on page 1 of AL-WAFD's 29 June edition titled "Thank You, Mr. Clinton; We Got The Message," Chief Editor Jamal Badawi says: "President Clinton sent an urgent message to whom it may concern through 23 cruise missiles. That message has profound significance. We understood from it that the new U.S. President is strong, violent, and dangerous, not weak and vacillating, as his adversaries said. He is no less awesome than his predecessor and when he says something he does it. We understood from Clinton's urgent message that he is backed by Congress, the Pentagon, and all the allied forces who supported his bloody strike at Baghdad. As for the United Nations and the Security Council, they played their new role perfectly well, legalizing anything Clinton does. Clinton's message is full of lessons for anyone who wants to learn." The author concludes: "Woe betide anyone who doesn't want to."

AL-JUMHURIYAH on 30 June on page 3 carries an approximately 1,500-word article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari entitled: "Cable to President Clinton: We Sympathize With Your Pain. By the Way, What Will Happen if Saddam Goes?"

Al-Ansari begins by saying that striking at Iraq is becoming a "new U.S. hobby" from which the United States derives much "joy and pleasure." Mocking an expression of sorrow by President Clinton over the fall of civilian victims in Iraq, al-Ansari writes: "It saddens us to see your sensitive feelings hurt or your soul disturbed by nagging qualms."

Al-Ansari asks who the United States would target to satisfy what he calls its punitive "hobby" if Saddam abdicated power. He writes, addressing his questions to President Clinton: "What if Iraqi President Saddam Husayn decides to 'tease you' and, remembering national purity of mind and the refinement of religious and humanitarian feelings, abdicated power to deliver the Iraqi people from their suffering, misery, and despair? If the Iraqi president did this and suddenly gave up power, what would you do and where would your country satisfy its punitive and vengeful 'hobby'?"

Al-Ansari does not suggest Saddam's abdication is a realistic assumption; he merely describes Saddam as unpredictable: "I advise you to prepare an alternative now. The Iraqi president is unreliable and hard to predict."

Al-Ansari concludes his article by sarcastically offering compassion for Clinton's "pain" over the killing of innocent people in the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, on page 14 of the same issue, carries an approximately 500-word "Dividing Lines" column by chairman of the board Samir Rajab, who expresses displeasure over what he calls U.S. foreign policy "double standard."

Rajab writes: "America claims the attempt to assassinate former President Bush was a direct threat to its security, requiring a unilateral response. Comparisons, the United States contends, with the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina are unjustified. Lo and behold, a crime that has not been committed is a threat to security, but thousands of crimes that are being committed daily are just 'horseplay' as far as Washington is concerned."

Musa, British Ambassador Discuss Libyan-West Crisis

NC0707103793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met the British ambassador in Cairo today. Afterward, the ambassador said they discussed several issues of common interest, particularly Bosnia-Herzegovina, developments in the peace process, and the Libyan-West crisis.

Appointment of Ambassador to Eritrea Announced

NC0607155693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Egypt has decided to appoint Muhammad 'Afifi Badr as ambassador to Eritrea. The two countries decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level on 1 May 1993. [passage omitted]

'Full Understanding' With IMF, World Bank Viewed

NC0407065393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 4 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports on its front page that there is full understanding between Egypt and both the IMF and the World Bank. The paper notes that the Egyptian delegation's talks with officials in the IMF and the World Bank have ended. The Egyptian delegation has flown back to Cairo to prepare a final draft of a letter of intent following the week-long talks in Washington, which resulted in full understanding and endorsement of the second stage of the Egyptian economic reform plan. Thus, Egypt can notify the Paris Club of creditors of the results of the talks and the draft letter of intent.

Meanwhile, AL-AKHBAR quotes a source in the Ministry of Planning as saying that in light of the new agreement with the IMF, 15 percent of Egypt's debt to the Paris Club members will be written off. This will bring the total amount of Egypt's debt that has been written off to 30 percent of the outstanding debt. At a later stage, an agreement will be concluded to write off 20 percent more to reach a total of 50 percent of the outstanding debt, in accordance with the agreement reached with the creditor countries.

Libya

Opposition Leader on Ties With Israel, Lockerbie

NC0207205693 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 28 Jun 93 pp 30-34

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, chairman of the Coordination Committee of the Libyan National and Democratic Forces, by Majidah Sabra in Geneva; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sabra] What was the Libyan people's reaction to the Libyan pilgrims' trip to occupied Jerusalem?

[Al-Huni] The people in Libya are now living in the era of media openness. There is no longer any information blackout. A Libyan can now listen to media other than Libyan ones. The people can now watch and listen to Italian, French, Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, and Saudi media. There is now news other than Libyan. The Libyan citizen is not now convinced with what is being said or broadcast because he can listen to the views of others and watch non-Libyan television.

What can this Libyan citizen's stand be when he watches on these screens the Jewish businessman Ya'qov Nimrodi screaming in occupied Jerusalem that al-Qadhdhafi had been personally coordinating with him the arrangements for this visit since August 1992 and showing the fax to an AFP correspondent when the latter doubted his claim?

Al-Qadhdhafi believed that this crisis would pass like other ones. But the people are now angry because they have access to news other than that given out by officials in their country. This prompted al-Qadhdhafi to abandon the pilgrims so as to absorb the Libyans' raging anger.

[Sabra] Daw Tajuri, leader of the Libyan pilgrims, said on the first day of the visit that the delegation came of its own accord. He then started to attack Israel and declared that Jerusalem is Arab and that Israel is a usurper. How do you explain this stand?

[Al-Huni] Tajuri first said: We did not seek permission from the president. He then said that the visit was made with the colonel's approval. But when the successive reactions inside and outside the country started to emerge, the colonel feared an increase in reaction inside the country and therefore abandoned the pilgrims.

[Sabra] What made the colonel think of starting relations with the Zionist enemy?

[Al-Huni] The mediators who mapped out the road for Jerusalem told him that Tel Aviv is the key to the world and not any Arab or Western country. Al-Qadhdhafi does not care about the stand of either the Libyan or Arab people. All he cares about is protecting himself. Even his actions inside Libya revolve around this protection.

[Sabra] What step is the colonel expecting?

[Al-Huni] That the Jews repay the visit. He is expecting it to take place on 16 July. It will be a counter overland pilgrimage from Jerusalem to Libya because no other transport means are available. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] What is Libya's role in the Lockerbie incident?

[Al-Huni] I was convinced at first that Libya had nothing to do with the Lockerbie incident and that if there was such a Libyan role, then it would have been a limited and secondary one. But in the wake of the pilgrims' visit, I began to believe the opposite, namely that the Libyans were really behind the operation. Al-Qadhdhafi has not made any concessions to our people but is willing to make concessions at the Libyan people's expense. If we recall the information about Lockerbie, we find out that the list of passengers included a Jewish delegation and that only members of this delegation had changed their reservations and did not board the plane. It became certain that the Libyans had contacted the "Mosad" and asked them to withdraw their Jews from this plane. They are now trying to reward him for this stance. There are many questions that we are raising again. The declaration of these relations and at this particular time is significant in many ways. The Israelis know that they cannot break the colonel's isolation or prevent the implementation of the sanctions. It is in Israel's interest not to have these sanctions implemented. International sanctions have been implemented fully against Iraq following the latter's invasion of Kuwait. Israel is not implementing the UN resolutions and therefore a UN failure to implement the resolutions against Libya, like its failure to implement other resolutions against Israel, would make Libya and Israel equal, and therefore, it cannot be said that the world has double standards. The latest resolution that Israel is refusing to implement is the one concerning the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in south Lebanon.

[Sabra] As national and democratic forces, what are your next steps?

[Al-Huni] We cannot remain silent over this issue because it is one that impinges on our people's fate. We will work strenuously to get rid of this regime that is toying with the fate of the people in the country. It is a repressive regime and, as national and democratic forces opposed to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime, we regard human rights as our priority. We notice the complete absence of any queries about these rights in Libya as if there are no human beings in Libya or as if Caliph 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab [second caliph after the death of the Prophet Muhammad] is ruling Libya and spreading justice and giving each person his rights. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] There was much talk recently about the appearance of fundamentalists in Libya. What is going on?

[Al-Huni] The Islamic trend in Libya has taken a course different to the one in Egypt and Algeria. The Islamic trend in Libya about which there is much talk is merely a reaction to the colonel's statements and actions. You will find that the people still adhere to Islamic traditions

and morals; 99 percent of female university students there are veiled. They do not wear yashmaks or cover their faces but wear modest clothes. [as published] This is in response to al-Qadhdhafi's call for licentiousness and disobeying parents. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Receives Indian Vice President, Delegation

LD0307133693 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, July 3 (MAP)—King Hassan II, flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid received Friday [2 July] here Indian Vice-President Kocheryl Ramon Narayanan who was accompanied by members of the visiting Indian official delegation.

After the audience, King Hassan II decorated the Indian vice-president with the High Throne Order Distinction.

The audience was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Abdellatif Filali, royal adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, Energy and Mining Minister Driss Alaoui Mdaghri, Indian Ambassador to Morocco Shiv Kumar and Moroccan Ambassador to India Ahmed Bourzeim.

The Indian vice-president, currently in Morocco since Wednesday, had talks with Moroccan Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani and Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali. He also visited the major historical sites in the the cities of Rabat and Fes, the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, the grand mosque of Hassan II in Casablanca, the Institute of Maritime Studies and the head-office of the state-owned Phosphate Group (OCP).

Indian State Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Eduardo Valeiro, who is accompanying the Indian vice-president, conferred Friday here with Moroccan Energy and Mining Minister Driss Alaoui Mdhagri on cooperation prospects in matters of energy, mining and chemicals products.

African Leaders Conclude Visit, Depart

LD0307134093 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, 3 Jul (MAP)—Heads of state of Sao Tome and Principe Miguel Trovoada, of Guinea Bissau Joao Bernardo Viera and of Rwanda Juvenal Hayarimana left Friday [2 July] Rabat after a two-day visit to the Kingdom during which they were successively received by King Hassan II.

The three African leaders visited Thursday along with the Angolan and Congolese foreign ministers the mausoleum of late King Mohamed V.

President of Guinea General Lansana Conte and Liberian interim President Amos Sawyer, who arrived Thursday in Rabat coming from Cairo where they took part in the 29th African summit of the Organization of the African Unity, also left the Kingdom after a brief visit to the country.

Sudan

Head of 'New York Network' Said Islamic Front Official

PM0707080093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Sudanese Opposition Threatens to Uncover Extremist Elements; 'New York Network' Leader Participated in Arranging Meetings for al-Bashir and al-Turabi"]

[Text] London—The Sudanese opposition National Democratic Grouping has revealed that Siddiq Ibrahim Siddiq 'Ali, leader of the "New York network" accused of planning bombings and assassinations, heads the Sudanese National Islamic Front's [NIF] organization in New Jersey, United States.

The Sudanese opposition grouping's branch in New York said in a statement yesterday that Siddiq Ibrahim accompanied Dr. Hasan al-Turabi during his visit to New York last year. He also supervised the process of guarding the meetings at which the NIF secretary general delivered his lectures during the visit.

The grouping said that Siddiq Ibrahim was among those who arranged the meeting which Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Council, had with the Sudanese community in New York in 1991 on the sidelines of his visit to the United Nations.

This meeting witnessed a heated confrontation between Lt. Gen. al-Bashir and some members of the Sudanese community.

As is known, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir in statements he made in Khartoum and Cairo a few days ago cast doubt on the nationality of the suspects in the New York network, indicating that they are not Sudanese and that the government knows nothing about them.

The opposition National Grouping's statement said that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's suspicion of the nationality of the detainees in New York conflicts with statements made by Ahmad Sulayman, the Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations, to the U.S. television network CNN, admitting that the detainees are Sudanese and expressing his willingness to cooperate with the U.S. authorities over any accusations which could be leveled at any member of the Sudanese mission to the United Nations.

The statement pointed out that Siddiq Ibrahim supervises the committees "for supporting martyrs' families" in New Jersey. The meetings of these committees are addressed by Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the Egyptian "Jihad" organization, who lives in the United States.

The statement added that some members of the detained Sudanese network worked with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and received him when he arrived in the United States.

The grouping's statement condemned terrorism and extremism, saying that the charges brought against five Sudanese in the New York network have worried the Sudanese and put them "in a position similar to the Sudanese expatriates' position during the Gulf crisis, trying to keep themselves and their reputation away from that wound."

The National Grouping's branch in New York provided detailed information about two other Sudanese members of the network, saying that it is determined to defend the reputation of the Sudanese community in New York and indicating that it will cooperate with U.S. authorities to that end and to uncover the extremist elements.

Meanwhile, Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, who is in charge of external action in the opposition Ummah Party, has said that his current visit to the United States is aimed at discussing all political developments related to the situation in Sudan with U.S. Administration officials.

He said that his talks with U.S. officials broached the humanitarian question as well.

Al-Bashir Views Regional Relations in Anniversary Speech

EA0607131293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and Prime Minister Gen 'Umar al-Bashir said that the model which Sudan is constructing in the recent four years has concentrated the concern of the world on Sudan, some of them pro that model while others are anti to it. In his address to the nation Tuesday [6 July], on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the revolution, al-Bashir said that those who criticise the revolution are the colonialists who opposes the calls of freedom.

Gen al-Bashir pointed out that Sudan is progressing well in its regional relations despite the enemies and that Sudan is stepping forward and with confidence in its world-wide relations, stressing that this system would be the way of the Sudanese foreign policy.

The revolution is working for strengthening its African relations which are developed in the past years with neighbours in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Chad, and other African countries, particularly Nigeria which mediated in the Sudanese peace talks.

Sudan will work through its bilateral relations and through its active presence in the African regional and economic organisations and through its strong role in the OAU will work for promoting the African relations toward economic integration and political understanding, he said, describing this policy as the best way for facing the new political and cultural colonialism (?attack). Sudan will work (?for) reconciliation in its Arab relations, he said, indicating that Sudan believes in the return of good Arab relations. Gen al-Bashir said that Sudan will exert [words indistinct] (?for real) Arab solidarity indicating that the participation of Sudan in the recent African summit came for this purpose.

Gen al-Bashir said that his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the sideline of the recent African summit stressed the [word indistinct] desire to overcome the crisis in the two countries relations on bases of mutual respect and consideration of joint rights and interests.

Sudan will work to achieve solidarity and [word indistinct] economic cooperation with Libya, Yemen, Jordan, Palestine and Mauritania, Gen al-Bashir said, adding that efforts are continuing for strengthening friendship and cooperation with Asian and Islamic countries, particularly Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Indonesia. He described Sudan's relations with China as strong through (?economic) cooperation and joint stances in international institutions.

Interviewed on Ties With Egypt

NC0507161093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1237 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution, has stated that the special nature of Egyptian-Sudanese relations is unquestionable, thus creating the need to search for a strategic mechanism to ensure that bilateral relations remain stable enough to serve the interests of the two peoples and consolidate the ties that bring them together.

In an interview with the weekly AL-'ARABI, the mouthpiece of the Nasirite Democratic Arab Party published today, al-Bashir said that once the foreign ministers of the two countries settle the outstanding differences between the two countries, he could meet with President Husni Mubarak either in Cairo or Khartoum.

Regarding the opposition, al-Bashir said: We welcome the opposition through dialogue or through political participation within the established institutions, provided it is serious, sincere in its intentions, and has plans and solutions for Sudan's problems.

Turning to the problem in southern Sudan, he said that it is impossible to solve except by negotiations.

Concluding the interview, al-Bashir expressed his appreciation for late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, whom he said had extended the realm and efficacy of the revolution beyond Egypt's borders and succeeded in backing Arab, African, and Third World liberation movements.

Five of 20 Detained Egyptians Released

NC0507190693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese security authorities today released five of the 20 Egyptians arrested in Khartoum on 26 June without explanation.

The freed people are workers in an Egyptian company making reinforced concrete.

The Egyptian diplomatic mission in Sudan is working to secure the release of the remaining 15 detainees, who are also employeed by the same company, the al-Nasr Imports and Exports Company, the company for selling Egyptian products, and the Egyptian Trade Center in Khartoum.

Western Sahara

UN Proposes Morocco-Polisario Talks in Laayoune

LD0207161893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] A meeting between Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio De Oro [Polisario] is expected in the middle of this month in Laayoune in the Western Sahara. The UN secretary general announced this meeting, which will bring together officials from both sides and which seeks to create an atmosphere of trust between Morocco and the Polisario Front and permit discussion of points of dispute over the UN peace plan.

Butrus-Ghali expressed the wish that the two sides hold extensive talks over the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara. He said that if no agreement is reached on the identity of the voters in the Western Sahara, he will call on the UN Security Council to implement the compromise solution he proposed to the two sides during his tour of the region last month. Until now Butrus-Ghali has not received any final reply on this proposal; Morocco has expressed reservations and the Polisario Front has asked for clarifications.

Polisario Willing To Participate

LD0307083193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Following the proposal made yesterday by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, calling for a meeting between Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio De Oro] on 15 July, the Polisario has announced its readiness to take part in the meeting in the town of Laayoune. This has been confirmed by one of the Polisario leaders, Mr. Mohmoud Abdelfettah, chairman of the Saharan committee for determining the identity of electors in the referendum on self-determination. He added that the Saharans welcome any step toward consultation and dialogue.

Kuwait

National Assembly Seeks Lifting of Arms Ban on Bosnia

LD0607201193 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The National Assembly has called on the international community to assume its full responsibilities with regard to the horrible crime of the century which is being perpetrated against innocents in Bosnia-Herzegovina and which is getting worse day by day.

In a statement issued at a session held today under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun and which was attended by Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, the Assembly said mankind in all parts of the world is pained by the savage aggression, which is unprecedented in history. Mankind also rejects the fanatical ethnic cleansing to which Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina are being subjected and which is contrary to all values, conventions, and ethics. (?The cruelty of this is being increased) by depriving those who endeavor to defend themselves, their lives, values, existence, and honor of arms supplies which would enable them to exercise their natural right of defense, while arms for their elimination are pouring into the hands of those who want to harm them and who seek to eliminate them. [passage omitted]

In its statement, the National Assembly called on the UN Security Council, which is the protector of justice and peace, to lift the ban for the supply of defensive arms to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This ban was imposed on all the warring parties, but it loses all justification when arms are needed purely for self-defense against aggression. This is particularly true when only the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina are harmed by this ban, while offensive weapons continue to pour in for the enemies of this people from neighboring states. [passage omitted]

The Assembly approved a proposal that messages be sent to the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, the French Republic, and the chairman of the UN Security Council for the current month, about lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Minister Queried on Tunisian Visit, Arab Reconciliation

JN0207183993 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Jun 93 p 6

[Interview with Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah by Chief Editor 'Ubayd Sultan; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sultan] Thank you for praising AL-ITTIHAD and its support for Kuwait. By following the Kuwaiti press, statements by the foreign minister, and counterstatements by the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker, I have learned that the Tunisian foreign minister visited Kuwait and that there was a certain reaction to the visit. Would you please explain your stand on the proposed Arab reconciliation?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait's foreign policy is drawn up by the foreign minister. The current exchange of views between the government and the Assembly is due to the freedom of expression that is guaranteed by the Constitution.

Regarding Arab reconciliation, some people say that we are against it. This is untrue. Reconciliation should not come from Kuwait but from the countries that were against us, because they are responsible for impairing Arab relations. There is an aggressor and there is a victim, and it is illogical for the victim to apologize to the aggressor. Since independence, we have called for the unity of Arab ranks and for keeping foreign influence away from the Gulf region. The region's security should be maintained by its people. Some Arab journalists who made statements on the captives issue, the border issue, abiding by Resolution 687, and the compensations issue should translate their statements into action and then persuade the Iraqi regime to comply with UN resolutions on these issues. However, there are steps that we view positively. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Tunisian foreign minister's visit to Kuwait, I can say it was a good initiative. He met with Kuwaiti officials and conveyed a message to his highness the amir of the country. But the Kuwaiti people and press did not accept the visit because of the Tunisian press' position during the occupation. Opinions may differ on this subject. However, I hope that initiatives will be translated into action.

We reiterated that we are a victim, and that the aggressor has to correct its position through practical initiatives and not only through some incredible statements. The Kuwaiti Government and people want a unified Arab position. Whatever the circumstance may be, the Arab world is our geographic and political extension. The invasion created a split for which the aggressor and his supporters are responsible. If these sides believe in the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, they should launch positive initiatives. We do not object to this, but we do not want a distorted rapprochement. Some say we live in isolation. This is untrue because most of the Arab world supports us. We do not live only for today, but also for the coming generations. He who wants to launch an initiative, has to act. We hope that King Hassan II's initiative will succeed. Hundreds of Kuwaitis are still in the Iraqi regime's prisons. If these countries want to reconsider their calculations, they must translate their words into deeds. We have noticed King Husayn's accusation of his hireling press. There should not be neutrality when a country is invaded. The regions' countries should hold consultations on this matter, and we do not want to act alone in this regard. The initiative came from Tunisia. Two years after the liberation, the opposing regimes felt they were isolated. We enjoy the support of

180 UN member states, and it is the Iraqi regime and its supporters that are isolated. [passage omitted]

['Ubayd] Do you believe that Kuwait hastened to end the boycott of some companies dealing with Israel?

[Al-Sabah] There is a difference between direct and indirect boycott. The boycott is directed at Israel's products and industries. But companies manufacturing cars and planes, for example, are not affected by the boycott. Kuwait explained this point and stressed its commitment to it. The issue is exaggerated.

['Ubayd] Military exercises are being held only with U.S., British, and French forces, and we have not heard anything about the "Desert Shield" or the "Damascus Declaration" forces. Are there any problems?

[Al-Sabah] The "Desert Shield" forces are present in Kuwait along with the Kuwaiti forces. We do not have to declare that because their presence is permanent. As a result, they conduct continued exercises. Agreements with these countries, as well as potential agreements with Russia, will determine these joint exercises. These are defense agreements from which we benefit. Frankly, the security issue is important, and we will not accept any repetition of what happened on 2 August 1990, no matter how high the price may be.

French Defense Minister Begins Two-Day Visit

LD0707094893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0859 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 7 Jul (KUNA)—French Defense Minister Francois Leotard arrived in Kuwait last night on a two-day official visit. He is expected to meet today with a number of senior Kuwaiti officials and with his Kuwaiti opposite number Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives With Letter for Amir

JN0507203093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Doha, 5 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent, has received a letter addressed to Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani from the Sudanese head of state Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The letter deals with Arab developments, especially the process of Arab solidarity, and bilateral relations.

The letter was delivered by Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih who met the deputy amir earlier today.

Health Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani met with the visiting Sudanese foreign minister and his delegation today. They discussed bilateral cooperation in various domains, especially in the fields of health and medicine, and other issues of common concern.

Abu-Salih arrived in Doha last night on a visit of several days to the State of Qatar.

Ambassadorial Level Relations Established With Eritrea

JN0507155893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1311 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Doha, 5 Jul (WAKH)—The Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of Eritrea have decided to establish bilateral diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today.

In a joint statement issued here today, the two sides expressed confidence that this step would promote cooperation and strengthen the ancient relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Qatari Military Delegation

LD0207172493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 2 Jul (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and inspector general, received at noon today His Excellency Shaykh Air Force General Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, Qatar's minister of state for defense affairs and deputy commander of the Qatari Armed Forces, and the accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

King Meets Deputy Commander

LD0207190993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 2 Jul (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosoques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God safeguard him, received in his office today Air Force General Shaykh Hamad Bin 'Abdallah Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for defense affairs and deputy general commander of the Qatari Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif Visits Medina, Departs

LD0707075593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0633 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Medina, 7 Jul (SPA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and accompanying delegation left for home after a visit to Medina to pray at the Mosque of the Prophet. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets Malaysian Counterpart

LD0607193993 Riyadh SPA in English 1926 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Riyadh, July 6, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met here on Tuesday [6 July] with

visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who handed him a message from Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Ismail al-Shuri and the Director of the ministry's Asian Department Ahmad Muhammad Mu'minah.

'Anti-Islamic' Amnesty International Report Assailed

PM0607083793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Jul 93 p5

[Unattributed report: "London: Saudi Ambassador Comments on Amensty International's Report"]

[Text] London (AL-HAYAH)—Saudi Ambassador to the United Kingdom Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi has commented on a report issued by Amnesty International on 1 July under the headline: "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A sudden rise in the number of public executions."

He said: "A billion Muslims believe that the Holy Koran carries God's words, which cannot be undermined in any way, and that the penalties stipulated in the Holy Koran are binding at all times. It is really astounding that Amnesty International continues to show such contempt for Islamic beliefs by insisting that the death penalty stipulated in the Holy Koran is most cruel, humiliating, and inhuman." Oh how one wishes that those in charge of that organization would give some of their time and effort to the victims not the killers and, furthermore, that Amnesty International, which claims to believe in freedom, would recognize the freedom of others to follow the legal system they choose for themselves and not that devised by that organization's philosophers. It is very regrettable that, by adopting such attitudes, that organization has become anti-Islamic." [quotation marks as published]

United Arab Emirates

Heir Apparent Receives PRC's Li Lanqing

JN0307144093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 3 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates, today met with Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing.

In a statement carried by the United Arab Emirates news agency, His Highness Shaykh Zayid said the visit has raised the horizons of bilateral cooperation and led to an increase in the volume of bilateral trade. He also noted that during the visit, numerous economic, trade, and technical agreements were signed. The two sides also agreed to exchange official visits.

The Chinese official extended an invitation for His Highness Shaykh Khalifah to visit China. A date for the visit is to be set later.

Government Welcomes Nomination of Eritrea Ambassador

JN0407145593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jul (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates Government has agreed for the provisional Eritrean Government's delegation in the UAE to be transformed into the embassy of the State of Eritrea as of today in compliance with an application by Eritrea, which declared its independence on 24 May.

The UAE Government welcomed the nomination of Mr. Muhammad 'Umar Mahmud as ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary for Eritrea in Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Mahmud has been a representative of the Provisional Eritrean Government in the UAE.

The UAE established diplomatic ties with Eritrea, at the ambassadorial level, on 28 June.

Yemen

Policy Statement Approved, Stresses Exclusive Gulf Ties

JN0207152293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] In an extraordinary session yesterday lasting until the small hours of this morning, the Council of Ministers approved the final draft of the government's policy statement and decided to submit it to the Presidential Council.

The statement, which will be presented to the House of Representative on 4 July to obtain a vote of confidence, reflected the general principles proposed by the coalition parties in terms of economic reform, alleviating the difficulties of the citizens' life, stressing security and stability, and continuing to strengthen the policy of democracy and shura [consultation] based on political and party multiplicity and the peaceful sharing of power. The statement also stressed the principles of the independence, integrity, and efficiency of the judiciary to ensure justice and fair dealing, implement court orders, complete unionist legislation, and merge the remaining establishments in order to remove the effects of division. The statement also emphasized the completion of the administrative divisions of the country on scientific basis and standards, to eliminate the effects of fragmentation, strengthen national unity, elect local councils, and limit centralization.

In its general outlines, the statement concentrated on the importance of carrying out a number of administrative and financial reforms aimed at realizing administrative and financial discipline, emphasizing the principle of reward and punishment, ending the malfunctions resulting from the duplication of efforts, and restoring people's confidence in the state's administration. The statement also concentrated on raising the efficiency of the inspection and follow-up bodies, evaluating performance, and supporting bodies responsible for planning, statistics, rehabilitation, and training.

In the economic field, the statement stressed the importance of adopting a free market economic policy in a gradual manner based on legal competition among the various economic activities and preserving and respecting private and public properties, cooperatives, and mixed ownership. It urged avoiding monopolization, improving people's standards of living, and revising financial and currency policies in order to stem inflation, strengthen and protect the national currency, and encourage savings and local and foreign investments in various fields. It reaffirmed the necessity of protecting local production, combating smuggling, and giving licenses, rewards, facilities, and incentives to encourage production in agriculture, fishing, and industries based on local raw materials. It also reaffirmed the importance of exploration and exploitation work on oil and mineral resources.

The statement reaffirmed the importance of realizing the principle of fair dealing in distributing service projects all over the Republic, giving priority to remote regions and the deprived and afflicted areas.

In the field of security, the statement stressed the importance of unifying the military establishment and continuing the unification of the security forces and improving their conditions. It stressed efforts to maintain stability, preserve the security of the citizens and the nation, and apprehended outlaw elements and bring them to justice to receive their just punishment.

In the field of foreign policy, the statement emphasized the importance of adopting a foreign policy that strengthens Yemen's role on the regional, Arab, Islamic, and international levels, giving priority to establishing exclusive relations with the states of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf on the bases of mutual trust and constructive cooperation and strengthening joint interests with the various Arab countries to serve the Arab nation's peoples. It emphasized strengthening Arab and Islamic solidarity and promoting cooperation with world states and the regional and international organizations.

The statement also included a number of government duties in the various sectors, ministries, and bodies over the coming phase.

Prime Minister Briefs House on Statement

JN0407152393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session today under Speaker brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. Attending the session were Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the brother deputy prime ministers, cabinet members, and members of the fraternal and friendly diplomtaic corps in Sanaa.

At the outset of the session, the brother House speaker welcomed the brother prime minister and cabinet members. Afterward, the House listened to the government policy statement read out by the brother prime minister. The statement contains the government's working program in the political, economic, and financial fields, as well as the administrative and security situations. The program includes promoting the performance of state control and auditing bodies, and creating new job opportunities in order to provide appropriate incomes for citizens and curb unemployment.

The statement also contains the state's general budget, ways to reduce government expenses, promotion of resources, handling the situation of the [word indistinct] in the public sector, and development of productive sectors and services such as transportation, communications, electricity, drinking water, sanitary disposal, and other development projects.

Afterward, the House set up a joint House-Government committee in order to study and discuss the government policy statement and submit an integrated report on it to the House in the next session. The House also discussed several topics on its agenda.

President Inaugurates Fourth Earth Satellite Station

JN0607130693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Chairman of the Presidential Council 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today visited the Ministry of Communications and the Public Telecommunications Corporation. He was welcomed by Engineer Ahmad al-Anisi, the minister of communications, and 'Abdallah al-Hammani, director general of the Public Telecommunications Corporation.

The president was briefed on the course of work at the ministry and the corporation and on communications projects that have been accomplished and the future expansion plans in the field of telecommunications.

The president inaugurated the fourth earth satellite station "A" of the Yemeni Company for International Communications. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Explains Move on UN Cameras

JN0607202493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has asserted that Iraq's request to postpone the issue of installing monitoring cameras in two facilities manufacturing unprohibited missiles is a logical, legal, and legitimate request.

Al-Sahhaf rejected the accusations levelled against Iraq that state that it refuses to install such cameras.

In an interview with Voice of the Youth from Dar al-Salam in Baghdad today, al-Sahhaf said: There is a difference between the alleged refusal and Iraq's request to postpone the issue.

He said the resolution that stipulates the installation of cameras, namely Resolution 715, is still under discussion and study by Iraq and the United Nations.

The Iraqi foreign minister stressed that raising the issue of installing cameras in two Iraqi facilities, which was fabricated by the special inspection committees, is an unfair, arbitrary measure that totally contradicts the UN Charter and the principles of international law and has nothing to do with implementing Resolution 687, which concerns weapons of mass destruction.

He noted that Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Resolution 687 emphasize that there should be no weapons of mass destruction, and if such weapons exist, they shall be destroyed and the machines—as well as equipment and material—used in their manufacture shall be turned into machines incapable of manufacturing such weapons.

He said the subject of cameras has come in another unbalanced resolution that has nothing to do with Resolution 687. It is Resolution 715 that is still under discussions between Iraq and the Security Council. He criticized those who presented this subject now, and said that they take orders from the parties that impose their hegemony on the Council. Their objective is to implement a plan forcing Iraq to keep implementing unjust resolutions and maintaining the siege imposed on it. They also want to take everything from Iraq without giving it anything in return.

The foreign minister urged the Security Council to implement all its commitments as stipulated in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and to take the necessary measures to eliminate the embargo imposed on Iraqi exports and civil commercial dealings.

Al-Sahhaf described the demand to install cameras as abnormal and strange because they demanded to fix the cameras in two places to monitor missiles that are not banned.

On Iraq's request to delay the demand, the minister said: There is a difference between saying I reject your demand and saying I want to delay it. Furthermore, Resolution 715 on this subject is still under discussion. From the technical and legal points of view, it contains repressive measures and represents interference that totally conflicts with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, and therefore the request to delay it is logical.

The minister expressed confidence that the escalation of this campaign is intended to mobilize public opinion after having misinformed it prior to launching an aggression against Iraq.

The minister emphasized the role of Iraqi diplomacy in this issue. This role can be played by sending letters to the Security Council, by explaining Iraq's just position and the facts to the world through the diplomatic missions, and by revealing the real aims of this game by upholding the argument that certain countries are taking over the duties of the Special Commission.

Al-Sahhaf pointed out that U.S. imperialism has further unmasked its ugly face by its unjust aggression against Iraq, noting that world public opinion, in addition to most states, especially in the Third World, and in most Arab states, can now see a better picture of the aggression.

The artificial coalition with which they tried to deceive the world is now exposed to the whole world, which has discovered that their alliance was formed to promote their bizarre interests, al-Sahhaf said, adding that the policy of aggression and arrogance is now an insult to the self-respect of all the peoples of the world.

Concluding his statement to the Voice of Youth from Dar al-Salam, al-Sahhaf said that even the rulers who are running after ill-gotten gains and the crumbs from the tables of the Americans can no longer stand this arrogance and the ugly face of aggression on Iraq, noting Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the aggression, and adding that the result will be a decisive victory for Iraq, that the aggressor will end in the dustbin of history.

Foreign Minister Sends Message to Brutus-Ghali

JN0607143593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1121 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has addressed a message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali on the 95th meeting of the Sanctions Committee.

In the message, the foreign minister stressed that certain Security Council member state with deliberate hostile intentions against Iraq control the committee's activities and impose on it a selective manner to realize their objective of tightening the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, without taking into consideration the people's basic needs and suffering.

Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency Dr. Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, New York

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to my message dated 24 June 1993 in which I explained our viewpoint on the decisions adopted in the name of the Sanctions Committee, set up in accordance with Security Council Resolution 661, during its 94th meeting.

After I was acquainted with the committee's decisions adopted at its 95th meeting, I found that the decisions adopted in the name of this committee at this meeting required that I address you about them once again. After every committee meeting, it becomes clear to me or to any fair-minded person, who is acquainted with the manner in which the committee operates and makes its decisions, that certain Security Council members states with premeditated political motives hostile to Iraq control the committee's activities and impose on it a selective manner in order to realize their objective of tightening the embargo imposed on the patient Iraqi people without taking into consideration their basic needs and suffering.

During the meeting, the U.S. and British envoys refused requests that fall within the context of basic human and civilian requirements that the Iraqi people need in their daily lives. This fact necessitates a review of this committee's work in the hope that you will intervene to put an end to what the envoys of the three said countries impose in terms of the unfair interpretations and applications of the UN Security Council's economic sanctions resolutions against Iraq.

Following are some of the requests which the three [as received] envoys have rejected during this meeting:

1. The U.S. envoy objected to a request to export 200 tonnes of polyester and acrylic threads used in the production of textiles in Iraq under the pretext that these constitute a raw material used for industry. In fact, this material is for civilian use, used solely for the purposes for which it was imported and no clause in the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq forbid the import of material used in civilian industry and the textile industry.

2. The British envoy objected to the export of 300 units of (?Polyphel) Chloride to a private hospital under the pretext that the material will be used by a private hospital [as received]. This British objection is not based on any legal foundation. Hospitals, be they private or government-owned, provide necessary medical services to the Iraqi people, and we can only interpret this British objection as an attempt to cause a deterioration of, and a collapse in, the health sector. Your Excellency knows that medication is not the only thing needed to save the lives of patients, especially the children, the older people, and the weak in general. There are other medical needs that must be met.

3. The British envoy objected to the export of 103 rolls of galvanized steel to al-Fajr Steel Industries Factory under the pretext that these can be used in industry. When the Moroccan envoy, who was supported in his position by Djibouti's envoy, pointed out that these will be used in the food industry and that the Committee's position must be flexible in that regard, the U.S. envoy said the end-user cannot be ascertained. That request involved material of a humanitarian nature that is necessary for food and health services; services that are considered an essential link in the chain of the necessary humanitarian requirements of any civilized society.

4. The British delegate objected to exporting 54 boxes of cable joints to an importer, a national agency. As a justification for his stand, the British delegate said that he was not convinced that schools and hospitals will be the ultimate users. This is a haphazard objection that ignores the fact that such things form a connected series of services, materials, and equipment.

5. The British delegate objected to exporting 25,935 tonnes of chemicals to be used as additives to cement for the importer, al-Ma'mun Building Materials Company. The pretext was that this material is used in building materials. The Moroccan delegate said that houses are a human need and that the committee must be flexible. Your Excellency is aware that none of the UN Security Council resolutions bans Iraq from manufacturing building materials, which is a necessary requirement for the Iraqis. Objections to these requests, which have a civilian and human nature, can only create serious structural disorders in the Iraqi people's society and economy with premeditated political goals.

6. The British delegate objected to exporting 15,000 tonnes of steel bars for the importer, Akir Trading Agency in Baghdad, under the pretext that they have multiple uses. The British delegate did not change his stand when the Moroccan delegate noted that the bars would be used for building houses.

7. The U.S. delegate objected to exporting 66 containers of granite for hospitals and health centers imported by a government establishment in the health sector under the pretext that it is not an essential commodity. This material is an end product used for humanitarian objectives in medical establishments. Had the U.S. delegate been free of ulterior political motives, he would not have objected to these and other materials that help meet the Iraqi people's human rquirements of our age.

Your Excellency, the above examples of objections to exporting materials with humanitarian and civilian natures during the committee's 95th meeting demonstrate beyond any shadow of a doubt that the embargo is intended to deliberately destroy the Iraqi society with calculated and systematic efforts based on motives that negate past and present values, traditions, and norms of human society. We cannot explain the insistence of the U.S., British, and French delegates on objecting to many requests without convincing evidence or legal basis except by saying that it is a retaliatory political measure taken by these three states against the Iraqi people.

Please distribute this letter as a Security Council document.

With my best regards,

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 5 July 1993

Negotiations Begin With UN Over Oil Exports

JN0707161693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, 7 Jul (INA)—Oil negotiations between Iraq and the United Nations began here a short while ago. The Iraqi delegation to the negotiations is led by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry. The Iraqi delegation includes representatives of the Central Bank, the Iraqi Oil Marketing Company, and the Trade Ministry.

The UN delegation is led by UN legal adviser Carl August Fieischhhauer.

An INA correspondent in New York reported that informed sources say that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will personally follow up the oil negotiations, and that he may attend part of them.

Talks Said Fruit of Steadfastness

JN0507143993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2018 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Iraqi delegation to the UN negotiations on exporting Iraqi oil will leave today for New York.

The Iraqi delegation, which is headed by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and includes a number of specialists and technical experts, will begin the negotiations as scheduled next Wednesday, 7 July, with a similar UN delegation led by UN legal adviser Carl Fieischhauer.

These negotiations, which were decided to be resumed after the Geneva meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, have received great attention in international political, economic, and media circles. These circles considered these negotiations a step toward correcting the relationship between the United Nations and Iraq, a relationship governed by U.S. hegemony over international decisionmaking through unjustified hostility toward a UN founding member state.

The negotiations are a step in response to a general international declaration—though not sufficiently strident—of displeasure with the U.S. hegemony, and a gradual understanding of the national and human position of Iraq after its legendary steadfastness over the past three years in face of the most horrible siege witnessed by humanity throughout history.

Hence, and for the sake of history, one fact should be highlighted—the dissatisfaction with the U.S. hegemony and the understanding of the Iraqi position have not been crystallized as a result of human feeling or conscience awakening, but were mostly motivated by the self-interest of countries all over the world. This new atmosphere and positive developments are the first fruits of the steadfastness of great Iraq, its leadership, and people. It is also the entrenchment of an historical fact.

The entire world knows that an oil-producing country that remained steadfast through three years of an unjust siege and a ban from exporting oil, as well as from exporting and importing any commodity, is a country capable of living for a similar period or longer without oil. It is true that Iraq is not living in prosperity as it used to, but it lived and it is still living.

This raises another issue about the siege: If the siege is an Iraqi problem, it is also a problem for the entire world. It is a problem for those besieged by a decision they made or by a decision that they abide by. Iraq is a big country that has economic dealings with most countries in the world. As much as Iraq wants to sell oil to other countries and to import from them, these countries are just as interested in buying Iraqi oil and in exporting their products to Iraq.

Iraq's steadfastness, without help from anyone, over the past three years has also shown that these countries' ability to manage without Iraq as an exporter and an importer is on a constant decline. The assistance provided by various parties has failed to strengthen these countries or given them more ability to be steadfast. Yes, the siege is an international problem as much as an Iraqi problem. The new atmosphere of understanding, which is expected to witness more positive developments, is the first fruit of the steadfastness of this great country.

U.S. Seeking Arab Allies' Backing for Further Strike

PM0707134393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Military editor's report: "Washington Seeking International Cover for Major Strike on Iraq"]

[Text] Paris—Semi-official Western defense sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that President Bill Clinton's administration is currently making intensive diplomatic efforts in a number of capitals with the aim of "reviving the Arab-international coalition against Iraq and securing the political cover Washington considers necessary for a major military strike which Washington wishes to carry out against President Saddam Husayn's regime soon."

According to these sources, the U.S. Administration was "very disappointed and resentful" because of the not so encouraging reactions of a number of the main members of the coalition formed during the Gulf war to the recent U.S. missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters

in Baghdad. They added that these reactions, ranging from lukewarm support to open criticism, convinced Washington that "any subsequent military action it might contemplate against Iraq must first have the necessary political cover provided by other states which the administration considers to be main pillars of the coalition against Saddam."

The same sources say that the United States has informed some capitals concerned that it "wants to deal a strong military blow to Iraqi not later than the end of this current July."

The sources give the following reasons for this:

1. The almost certain information that Baghdad has succeeded in rebuilding a large part of its military arsenal and local military production capabilities. The information includes the official report recently submitted to Congress which said that "Iraq has regained 80 percent of the military power it had before the war" and that it continues to produce major military equipment including T-72 tanks, surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, and conventional as well as chemical ammunition.

2. The pressure brought to bear for some time on the administration by the U.S. military command, "which is very angry because of what it considers to be an unfinished task which was assigned to it but which it was not allowed to complete for political considerations," according to a senior U.S. military official. The sources specifically mention Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Colin Powell as "the main advocate of the idea of completing the military task and ending the cat and mouse game" which he thinks Saddam Husayn has been effectively playing with the United States since the end of the Gulf war.

3. The general feeling that the Iraqi regime has, to a large extent, managed "to overcome the military effects of the Gulf war," and that it is trying "to regain the political initiative" by showing that neither the United States nor the international community can do without him at the internal and regional levels, something which U.S. and European political circles (supported by numerous regional circles) consider to be "a distortion of the truth the consequences of which could not be tolerated by the Gulf or Middle East regions."

The Western sources maintain that the aim of the military operation, for which preparations are now under way and which awaits "the political decision," will be "to demonstrate to the regime that nothing has changed in the Arab and international attitude toward it" and that "so long as Baghdad continues to maneuver and evade implementation of the Security Council resolutions, it can only expect firm and decisive reaction from the colaition," and also to prove "that the coalition against Saddam, with its Arab and international components, still exists and is still firm."

Emphasis on Intelligence Headquarters as Target Viewed

JN0607140993 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Jul 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Iraqi Intelligence Service Is the Shield of the People"]

[Text] To justify the crime of killing civilians and bombarding Baghdad with sophisticated missiles, the criminal mafia in Washington emphasized that the target was the Iraqi Intelligence Service [IIS] headquarters. That was a despicable attempt to imply that the strike will not arouse the anger of the Iraqis.

This implication is both deceptive and dangerous, because U.S. President Bill Clinton is projecting what he knows about the nature of the work of the U.S. intelligence services onto the intelligence services of other countries.

It is known that the CIA adopts offensive rather than defensive plans. In other words, it carries out acts of espionage in other countries to weaken them, spread chaos and crime in them, or to change their political systems.

Therefore, the entire world has known that the CIA is responsible for ugly crimes against peoples and liberation movements worldwide and that it carries out operations involving killings, assassinations, bribery, corruption, the destruction of other nations' economies, and the spreading diseases and corruption. Therefore, it has deservedly won the title "the maker of crime and dirtiness."

Therefore, Clinton and others in America keep in mind a dirty image about intelligence services, with which no one takes pride in associating their name. Therefore, he believed that emphasizing the story of bombarding the IIS headquarters would justify his action in the eyes of some people in Iraq or may ease the volume of the crime that he has committed against humanity.

In this context, prominent facts must be recalled, most important of which is the fact that the IIS is not in any way similar to the CIA in terms of objectives and methods. This is because ours is a defensive, preventive service whose primary and basic duty is to counter and foil foreign espionage against our country and to ensure our national security.

Because of the foreign, defensive nature of the work of the IIS—even if this work sometimes takes an offensive turn—it is indeed considered an honorable national and pan-Arab kind of work for every Iraqi and Arab.

We should pose the following direct question: Against whom does the IIS work? Undoubtedly, we unhesitatingly answer that it is Iraq's capable arm that fights Zionism and the enemies of Iraq abroad, thwarts their evil deeds, and exposes their plans. Thus, it defends the homeland and citizens and ensures stability and freedom.

This kind of work does not transgress upon anybody, nor does it violate other peoples' values and dignity. It is a legitimate kind of work, approved by religions and laws. Within this context, our national service has managed to expose many plots and safeguarded the Iraqis against dangers and evils. As a result of its defensive action, no Iraqi has been harmed.

It is the right of every genuine Iraqi, therefore, to view this service as the people's shield and their potent weapon in deterring foreign espionage and sabotage. Indeed, every genuine Iraqi takes pride in an intelligence service that has such national, defensive, and ethical character. Every Iraqi knows that the intelligence service does not strike deals, bring about coup attempts, or engineer subversive acts against nations. The intelligence service also does not interfere with Iraq's domestic affairs.

It is therefore a wrong conclusion on Clinton's part that striking the intelligence headquarters will ease the Iraqis' anger. This also confirms Clinton's weakness and naivete, as well as the fact that he has fallen for the CIA's devilish wiles.

Bombarding the intelligence headquarters is a criminal act and an attack on an Iraqi home governed by national and humanitarian principles. Every Iraqi is proud that this service is now a target for the madness of the Washington death makers.

The intelligence service has become a great symbol of Iraq's ingenuity, steadfastness, and capability. This is why it was targeted by the Zionist-imperialist evil.

Greetings to the strugglers of the intelligence service who, once again, win the honor of being the first to encounter the crimes of the enemies of humanity.

Paper: Nothing Gained by Compliance With Resolutions

JN0707102093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that targeting Iraq through direct or indirect aggression, through a unilateral U.S. action, or through international cover, continues. It is a systematic process to exhaust Iraq, whose objectives are clear.

In an article today, the paper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Despite the flexibility Iraq has shown on several occasions to hold dialogue and to reach common denominators, pressures and blackmail have continued to be the main headlines of an international era, during which crises and tension are fabricated with the objective of forcing Iraq to capitulate to the hostile scheme, and to yield to the enemies and to their evil objectives in the region.

The paper adds: It is nothing new to say that they are continuing their pressures by fabricating crises and pretexts, and by escalating them to the point of confrontation. They did this before their treacherous 30-state aggression, they are doing it now, and they will do it in the future in an attempt to terrorize our people and their leadership. The objective is to make this leadership relinquish its resolution, principles, and objectives, and to block Iraqis' future in a racial and rancorous attempt to stop our nation's awakening.

The paper stresses: Our patient mujahid people—who were exposed to brutal bombardment for 42 days, during which 88,000 tons of bombs and explosives were dropped in 110,000 raids, after which they were exposed to the second aggression, and the recent missile attack, and despite the fact that three years have passed since the unjust blockade was imposed—will not be intimidated by threats, nor will they yield to the attempts to terrorize and blackmail them. On the contrary, the aggressors' insistence on fabricating crises will only bolster our determination to adhere to our policy, leadership, and future.

The paper says: Iraq, which responded to the UN Security Council resolutions, despite the fact that they are unjust and unfair, and cooperated with and responded to the resolutions in words and deeds in an attempt to strip the aggressor of its pretexts and foil its evil motives, has thus far not gained anything fair in return.

March Staged at UNDP Office Denounces U.S. Attack

JN0607173493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Iraq's peasants have denounced and expressed their anger over the crime committed by America when it bombarded civilian neighborhoods in Baghdad, resulting in the martyrdom and injury of many defenseless citizens.

In a massive march today in front of the UN Development Program [UNDP] office, the peasants voiced their constant readiness to make sacrifices in support of the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, in defense of great Iraq and the achievements of the 17-30 July revolution.

A protest memorandum handed by the head of the General Federation of Iraqi Peasant Cooperatives to the UNDP resident representative said the new U.S. aggression confirms that the United States and its allies do not give any weight to the United Nations and the laws and charters on which the United Nations was established. They also do not respect the sovereignty of independent states.

The memorandum demanded, in the name of millions of Iraqi peasants, that the UN secretary general act immediately to stop these continuing attacks against Iraq and its people who look forward to progress and prosperity and a free, peaceful life. The Iraqi people reject U.S.

hegemony over the United Nations and the imposition of U.S. political and economic standards on it to control the world.

Authorities Reportedly Stop Jamming VOA, BBC Radios

JN0607152993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] An official Iraqi source today said the Iraqi authorities decided to stop jamming Voice of America, the BBC Radio, and Radio Monte Carlo as of the end of last month.

Car Bomb Explodes Near al-Basrah Journalists' Building

JN0707084893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—A booby-trapped car exploded in front of the Iraqi Journalists Union Building, al-Basrah branch, the day before yesterday.

The newspaper BABIL said that there were no casualties as a result of this cowardly act, which was carried out by small agents of the foreigner and added that the only damage was smashed glass in the journalists' building and other buildings close by. The paper attributed the act to the enemies' anger over Saddam Husayn's continuous care for journalists and for his reception of members of the Journalists Union Council and the experts committee, and for the ability the Iraqi journalists displayed to make sacrifices for the sake of the homeland and the leader throughout the years of confrontation.

BABIL described the act as trivial and insipid and said it proves the deterioration of the enemies' schemes and shows their inability to implement their major plans.

SAIRI: 1,000 Mass at Iranian Border To Escape Attacks

NC0607192793 Paris AFP in English 1906 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 6 (AFP)—Around 1,000 Iraqis fleeing attacks by government troops on the southern marshlands have massed at the Iranian border seeking refuge in Iran, a key Iraqi opposition group said Tuesday [6 July].

"Some 200 families, representing 1,000 people, have been forced to flee the recent attacks of the Iraqi army" on marshlands, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement to AFP.

"They are currently at the Hemmat border post in southwestern Iran and want refuge in Iran," the statement said.

According to SAIRI, hundreds of other Muslim Shiites have fled to the Iranian border in recent days.

The refugees, among them many children, are suffering from illnesses as well as food and medicine shortages, SAIRI said.

At the end of June SAIRI reported that Iraq had stepped up attacks on Shiite Muslims in the south, forcing dozens of families to flee to Iran.

The Iranian authorities did not confirm the report.

The swamplands stretch over some 35,000 square kilometers (14,000 square miles) between the cities of al-Basrah, al-'Amarah and al-Nasiriyah, where opposition fighters and army deserters are hiding out.

U.S. and other allied aircraft have barred Iraqi aircraft from flying over this region since August 27 last year.

Iranian Aircraft, Artillery Attack Kurdish Areas

NC0607180793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] In the past three days Iranian aircraft and artillery have attacked our border areas, including Qindil, (Suwaraj), and Hamdun, killing five citizens in Hamdun and causing extensive material damage.

Regime Imposes Curfew on Karkuk, Arrests Deserters

JN0607184293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime imposed curfew on the Gharnatah area of the city of Karkuk on the morning of 5 July. The curfew lasted until 1200. During the curfew, the regime searched for Army deserters and arrested some of them.

It may be noted that most of the inhabitants of this area are Arabs who were brought in by the regime to Arabize Karkuk.

The curfew is part of the regime's plan to search for Army deserters and for weapons hidden in every house in Karkuk. The regime arrested several unarmed citizens and threw them into its jails.

Civil Servants Declare Strike Over Wage Dispute

TA0707044293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The strike is on. The leaders of the four civil service workers unions and the Treasury did not succeed in reaching an agreement overnight. As a result, there will be work stoppages at most government agencies. The civil servants are demanding a 35-percent wage increase and are threatening to expand the strike if a new wage agreement is not reached with the Treasury. Steve Linde has more details:

[Begin Linde recording] The fact that you are listening to this broadcast means that the civil service strike has not yet reached the airwaves of Israel's radio and television, although sanctions are expected in Educational Television today. Bezeq Communications is also not strike-bound at this stage. But all four civil service unions are striking: engineers, technicians, academics, and other civil servants. Altogether, some 60,000 civil service employees will not be working, and most government agencies will be paralyzed.

Among those not going to work are employees of the Interior and other ministries, nurses and maintenance workers at government hospitals, workers at airports and harbors, court administrators, employees at the National Insurance Institute and tax offices, and workers at the rabbinical courts and the Public Works Department. No accord was reached in marathon negotiations all through the night between the leaders of the four unions, the Histadrut [labor federation], and the Treasury.

The Finance Ministry says if it receives reports that the strike is severely affecting vital services, it will request return-to-work orders from the National Labor Court. The next meeting between the sides is scheduled to take place tomorrow, although contacts are expected to continue today. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Housing Minister Comments on Christopher Remarks

TA0507061093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to you, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Good morning.

[Qital] When Warren Christopher said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the United States will not impose itself on the parties, who was he referring to, the Palestinians, Israel, Syria, or perhaps all parties?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I hope that Warren Christopher—who is familiar with the efforts exerted by Israel—was referring to the other partners to the talks, and mainly to the Palestinian side.

[Qital] He did not state, however, that Israel was making special efforts.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think that the United States is very familiar with the efforts exerted by Israel from the beginning of the process to this day. In my opinion, it makes no difference at this particular point whom he was referring to. The important thing, the central problem, is what is transpiring here. The fact is that Israel is exerting great efforts, whereas the Palestinian side is evincing stubbornness. I am expressing my private opinion when I say that I sincerely believed that the local PLO leadership—and I have always claimed that the local leadership is a PLO leadership—could facilitate the process despite Yasir 'Arafat. Moreover, I do not believe that our salvation will come from the direction of the PLO. I do not believe that the PLO can save the situation, because it is divided into two parts: One which is in favor of facilitating the process and exhausting this unique opportunity, whereas the other part is evincing stubbornness. The interesting conclusion from all of this is that the only man who determines things in the PLO is Yasir 'Arafat, for better or worse.

[Qital] Are you suggesting that Israel speak with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No, no. We know very well that Yasir 'Arafat, who considers himself the leader of the entire Palestinian diaspora, would talk about a Palestinian state, about Jerusalem as its capital, and about the right of return. These are precisely the three issues that could nip the process in the bud. We must, however, view the situation realistically. The only possible solution—which seems impossible in light of Christopher's statement—is a much more intensive U.S. involvement. We can bring this about, because the United States has a global-strategic interest in the Middle East. I find it inconceivable that the United States would leave the situation as it is today. Theoretically all sides involved are interested in getting out of this entanglement. Israel is certainly interested in peace.

[Qital] Are you saying, then, that Israel is waiting for the United States to enforce a solution on the sides?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, I do not want to mince words here: Israel expects much greater U.S. involvement.

[Qital] Returning to the PLO, on the one hand you are saying that the PLO is a factor which must be taken into consideration, while on the other hand that Israel should not talk with 'Arafat.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I did not say that we have to take it into consideration. Meretz ministers yesterday said that we must sit with the PLO. For my part, I do not know what or who the PLO really is. Today I can give you an

accurate list of the PLO people who are in favor or are opposed [to the peace process]. Do you think we will solve the problem by sitting with the PLO?

[Qital] Perhaps if Israel sits with 'Arafat it will give him a sense of legitimacy, thereby making it possible to conclude things which cannot be concluded with Faysal al-Husayni.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, I would sit with anybody, on the condition that the process, namely the interim period toward autonomy, would start immediately—disregarding all the obstacles on the way. Today the Palestinians are talking about the issues of territorial jurisdiction and Jerusalem, not to mention the third thing, which is the right of return. Therefore when I say that the United States should enter the process much more deeply, this means that the United States should send out feelers and provide the compromise formulas. I think we must view the situation realistically and decide how to proceed.

[Qital] Turning to another issue, this morning we learned that the settlers are purchasing homes in Hebron's casbah. Do you know anything about this?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I admit that I am completely unfamiliar with this issue. If you want my opinion, let me direct you to a statement I made in June 1983, when I appointed the coordinator of activities in the territories. At that time I said that I am firmly oppose to Jewish settlement in the heart of Arab towns, in this case Hebron.

Referring to this particular case, I do not know what is the settlers' precise intention. It is certainly not intended to promote peaceful coexistence. I know exactly what is going to happen: It is going to bring about a situation of incitement and violence, and I do not think it is going to end in a good way.

[Qital] Do you intend to do anything about it?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not know, because this is the first time I have heard about this. Certainly this is something that cannot be left unaddressed. Such a purchase drive and Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron is sending to the Arabs a clear message: We want you to get the hell out of here—and this is being done just when we are in the midst of a peace process. Those who tell you that this can work, and that they want to live peacefully together, are speaking nonsense. It never worked and never will work. There can be no coexistence while the two peoples are mixed together. It can only work when they live one by the side of the other.

[Qital] Thank you very much.

'Flexibility' To Keep U.S. as Full Partner Cited

NC0707123493 Paris AFP in English 1213 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Jerusalem, July 7 (AFP)—Israel is willing to be "flexible" to keep the United States as an active partner in the Middle East peace talks, a senior foreign ministry official said Wednesday [7 July].

The official, who requested anonymity, said Israeli leaders will spell out their position in talks with Dennis Ross, U.S. State Department coordinator for the Middle East.

Ross is to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Thursday at the beginning of a regional tour.

The United States has expressed exasperation at the deadlock in the talks. It presented a compromise document on Palestinian interim authority at the 10th round which ended last week.

The proposals were rejected as "pro-Israeli" by the Palestinians and criticised by Israel.

"We are prepared to modify some of the points in the American document to try to bridge the gap between us and the Palestinians," the official said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned on Sunday that there were limits to the U.S. commitment to its role of "honest broker" in the peace talks, which began in October 1991.

Talks between Ross and the Israelis will focus on two issues—the status of Jerusalem and the scope of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, the official said.

Israel refuses to include East Jerusalem, which it annexed in 1967, in any Palestinian autonomy plan.

The U.S. document calls for talks on East Jerusalem to be set aside until negotiations on a final settlement.

But the Palestinians, insisting that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, want it included in negotiations for a five-year interim period of autonomous rule in the territories.

The foreign ministry official said Christopher could visit the region at the end of the month if Ross's visit is a success.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that the United States had "to bring the sides together," but Israel could not make any concessions on certain points, such as the status of Jerusalem.

Ministers Reported To Favor Direct Talks With PLO

Labor MK Calls for Public Stand

TA0707154093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom says he knows for certain that Labor Ministers Bar'am, Ramon, Namir, Liba'i, Shohat, Shahal, and Peres are in favor of a direct dialogue with the PLO. He believes, however, that they are afraid to say so publicly. In a motion on the agenda, MK Merom called on Labor ministers to unite with Meretz ministers for creating a

majority in the government in favor of direct talks with the PLO. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that answering in the name of the government, Minister Hayim Ramon did not confirm that he supports a direct dialogue with the PLO. Mr. Ramon said that a such a dialogue at the present time would breach the principle of a gradual arrangement.

Sarid: Cost Will Be Lower

TA0607111593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid believes that if Israel holds direct negotiations with the PLO, the price it will have to pay for peace will be lower than the price set in negotiations through agents. A better deal can always be struck with the home owner, Sarid told our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv during a tour of the 'Emeq Yizre'el District.

Minister Sarid also said that the katyusha attack on the Galilee this morning was an attempt by the terrorists to intervene in the political process and foil the contacts for peace.

Rabin: No Point in Changing Negotiating Partner

TA0707154493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The differences of opinion between Israel, on one hand, and Syria and the Palestinians, on the other, are more distinct than ever. This was said today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who also expressed the hope that the positions of the Arab side are not final, and that progress be made in the negotiations. Mr. Rabin made these remarks during a tour of factories in Karmi'el and Yoqne'am. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin recording] [Vismonsky] Referring to proposals made by various ministers—including Minister Sarid—to hold direct talks with the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the address for the peace talks is the delegation of the Palestinians from the territories, and that there is no point in changing this address, as was proposed by various ministers:

[Rabin] Today the differences of opinion between Israel on the one hand, and Syria and the Palestinians on the other, are more distinct than ever. I hope that these are not the final positions of the Arab side. We need patience, as well as the help of the United States. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[A similar report in Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 7 July adds: "Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Prime Minister Rabin also referred to the escalation in Hizballah activity along the northern border, saying that Israel will have to check out whether there is any change in Hizballah's operating policy."]

Foreign Minister Peres Interviewed on Peace Talks

TA0707053693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Foreign Minister Peres. Are you optimistic?

[Peres] Yes.

[Qital] Based on what?

[Peres] On the basis of an analysis of the situation and the alternatives facing us all.

[Qital] What Warren Christopher said earlier this week sounds quite frustrating. It means they are starting to lose hope.

[Peres] The answer to that is that I believe all the sides are mistaken in their understanding of the U.S. role. I believe that we and the Palestinians will pay a price for that. At first, the Palestinians had the feeling that the United States can impose a solution on Israel. It took them a long time to understand that the United States does not want to do that, and I believe it cannot do that. There may also have been people among us who thought that the United States can twist the Palestinian arm, and that is also mistaken. The actual negotiations are being conducted between the Palestinians and us, and each side can make its own decisions and must also make its contribution.

[Qital] Do the Egyptians have influence with the PLO?

[Peres] There is no doubt about it. I would like to say, however, that we must understand that the Americans do have a role: not to replace the sides or impose a settlement on them but to bridge the gaps. Therefore, two things must be done: We must free ourselves from the illusion that the Americans can replace us but must not forgo the American role as a bridge between the sides.

[Qital] How do you see the future? Will there be another round in Washington and after that yet another, or is a different method possible?

[Peres] I do not believe the method will be limited to holding rounds. There are various roles and negotiations between the rounds. I think the problem is that the gaps in the definitions are greater than the gaps in the positions. In other words, when we have to formulate something, each side wants to introduce relevant and irrelevant clauses. The Jerusalem issue is one example. The Palestinians know in their hearts that Israel will not budge on Jerusalem and that they are simply beating their heads against the wall on that, but in their view, they cannot agree to definitions that do not include a reference to Jerusalem. Therefore, one of two things has to take place: Either the scope of the definitions must be

reduced or they should be made vaguer, because in actual practice the picture is really much clearer. Where else will the Palestinians turn? Where else will all the sides turn?

I also regret that the negotiations have gone on for so long. For instance, Europe and American were different six months ago. Europe and America could have been of much more assistance then. The world is currently facing a tough economic situation.

Both we and the Palestinians must understand that the political solution must have economic backing; otherwise, it will fail. If we resolve definitions alone, these will collapse like a house of cards. We must create new situations, which is much more difficult than bridging conflicting definitions.

[Qital] How do you regard the visit by the U.S. team, under Dennis Ross, within that context?

[Peres] In my view, all the sides are prepared to return to the negotiations. I think the delegation's visit is an informal effort to investigate where and how the gaps can be bridged. I welcome it, because time is precious. We would have preferred the negotiations to be conducted without breaks. In my view, the visit fills a gap in the time frame and exploits it. I think the most important thing that happened yesterday in Egypt is that it openly supported the U.S. paper. That is important, because we are interested in maintaining a bridging role for the United States. Egypt also plays a bridging role, although perhaps of a smaller scope. That permits the negotiations to continue.

Peres Urged To Voice Opinion on Peace Process

TA0207105093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "How Long Will You Remain Silent, Shim'on Peres?"]

[Text] The irony about the relationship between these two old rivals is that Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin have gone at each other tooth and nail throughout the years, occasionally over trifles, whereas now, just when a healthy argument is called for, they have become exemplars of good manners.

Expecting Peres to come out of the closet and strongly voice his opinion does not mean that we seek to sow dissent. The peace negotiations are stuck, and no U.S. paper can extricate them from their deadlock. The foreign minister is on record as making many public and private statements over the past few months about how "a lot depends on us." Well, now it also depends to a certain extent on him.

It is hard to understand how the prime minister has managed to run the most important political issue on the country's agenda for a whole year without holding any real debate. The government does not deal with the peace process and merely convenes to hear reports which generally lag after newspaper headlines. If Rabin had even succeeded in coming close to his promised timetable to formulate an agreement (three months ago), he would have been worthy of lavish praise and silent adulation. Instead, we continue to dangerously tread water. The foreign minister cannot absolve himself of responsibility.

There are more ifs: Peres would have been able to remain silent if his disapproval of many of his boss' moves was not so well known. Behind the slogan about how much depends on us, Peres disagreed with Rabin on the issue of Gaza (he supported turning it over to Palestinian administration), the elections (Peres favored holding early elections even before the formulation of the principles of the interim accord), on stepping up the intensity of the talks (and, of course, Peres was in favor of upgrading the Syrian track to the foreign ministers level), on the unflinching adoption of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and on discussing Jerusalem within the framework of negotiations on the permanent settlement—or, in other words, on almost all the major issues in the talks.

Peres, however, has swallowed his tongue. Occasionally he makes some halfhearted remark, but on the whole he has silently accepted his expulsion from the negotiations' inner circle. Rabin defined Peres' tasks from the very beginning and denied the foreign minister any role in the bilateral negotiations except to comment on them. Peres has not made adequate use of even that.

Just like the other cabinet ministers (excluding Justice Minister David Liba'i, who, as recalled, was forced to pay for his outspokenness), Peres supported the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. He accepted Rabin's exclusive channel of communications with senior administration officials. Warren Christopher flouted basic norms of etiquette this week when submitting the new U.S. draft of the statement of principles. The secretary of state telephoned Rabin in the Netherlands and did not even call his counterpart in Jerusalem. Another round of talks failed without Peres finally saying how he thinks things should be done.

It was not Peres who described the state of the talks as critical, but rather the U.S. President paying lip service by announcing (rather dubious) changes in his staff. Anyone encountering Peres in recent weeks has received the impression that he is more withdrawn, almost depressed, as though he was having trouble bottling in his frustration and anger over the complications in the peace process. His problem is no secret: Anything he says against Rabin's actions will be noted down against him as another chapter in the sick relationship between the two men. So he continues to keep silent. Meanwhile, he has praised (justifiably) the progress in the multilateral talks (which are of minor importance as long as the main track is at a standstill). Peres makes a point of appearing to enjoy his trips. He expounds upon his rosy vision of

the region's future because he has decided not to comment on the negotiations' gloomy present. The fact that the foreign minister continues to refrain from pointing out what should be done differently is, with time, becoming irresponsible. For how much longer will Peres swallow the humiliation of his exclusion and keep his opinions to himself? This is not only his own personal problem. That is something that he should work out with the prime minister if he wants to (and can). The question is how long is the foreign minister permitted to watch the most important political issue being handled by the prime minister, in a way that counters his basic assessments and beliefs—and to continue to sit still for it.

He does not have much time. Who knows what will befall the government in the next few months, when the spiritual mentor of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is busy cursing the Der'i bashers in the cabinet?

How many more barren rounds of talks can the negotiations undergo before being pronounced dead? One can assume that a few critical comments by the foreign minister, regarding what is holding up progress on our side, will not be sufficient. The prime minister will easily shrug off a few vague statements made in passing. If Peres decides to breach the code of etiquette and manners, he will find himself facing a new crisis in his relations with Rabin.

To make his arguments carry weight and be effective, Peres will have to prepare to fight for them with the prime minister. The matter is so important and urgent that the foreign minister should even consider resigning if his opinion is not heard. Such a step is not taken in a day or two. If Peres understands, as I believe he does, the need to vigorously shake the peace process, then it is time for him to loudly and courageously say as much, without sparing any details. How long will you remain silent, Shim'on Peres?

Commentary Urges Acceptance of U.S. Paper

TA0407154893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 93 p B1

[Commentary by 'Uzi Benziman: "The U.S. Life Buoy"]

[Text] There are two ways to interpret Prime Minister Rabin's declarations of disappointment about the U.S. draft document of principles that was submitted to the Israeli and Palestinian delegations last Wednesday [30 June]. First, it is possible that these are tactical declarations made for bargaining purposes and in order to balance the negative Palestinian reactions. Second, it is possible that Rabin really believes what he said. If this second possibility is correct, it is highly desirable that the prime minister reconsider the way he has received the U.S. initiative.

Until the moment the U.S. document was submitted to the parties at the negotiating table in Washington, it looked as though the negotiations were not going anywhere. Even today, after the U.S. proposal was submitted, three of the four negotiation tracks are stuck: The talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan (the last two tracks depend on the negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians). Were it not for the U.S. draft, the Palestinian track would also have been completely stalemated. The situation was so bleak, in fact, that senior political circles have begun to wonder whether there is any point of holding another round of talks, and whether the time has not come to reconsider the entire negotiations format, as stipulated in Madrid.

Between Israel and Syria there is a situation of symmetry: Israel is unwilling to talk about withdrawal, and Syria is unwilling to address the issue of the substance of peace. These positions are not merely ploys: The leaderships of the two countries find it hard—both psychologically and intellectually—to reach internal decisions on these issues, and find it easier to move in circles rather than make a decision. Such symmetry does not exist on the Israeli-Palestinian track, because due to the balance of power and the nature of the negotiations Israel is on the giving side (self-rule), whereas the Palestinians are on the receiving side.

Until the U.S. document was submitted just before the end of the 10th round of peace talks, there was an impression that the negotiations in their present format could cause a setback in the situation. Not only was there no progress, but the introduction of Jerusalem by the Palestinians made the political process regress many months and entangled the situation unnecessarily.

This situation was brought about by a combination of factors: An Israeli position which has not answered the minimal expectations of the Palestinians, despite the change of governments in Israel; an inexperienced U.S. Administration; and an erratic and provocative Palestinian attitude.

If it were not for the U.S. proposal, which was submitted by Warren Christopher to the heads of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, the 10th round of talks would have ended with a complete deadlock that could have impeded the prospects for future progress.

On the face of it, therefore, a government interested in facilitating the political process should have welcomed the presentation of the U.S. initiative rather than settling for an expression of deep disappointment, as was done by Rabin. The U.S. paper constitutes the life buoy of the negotiations in their present format; it makes room for the continuation of the peace process without getting entangled in discussions about alternative negotiations tracks; it provides a foothold for continuing the 20-month-old discussions over an agreed-upon objective (a declaration of principles), and creates an opportunity for completing them successfully; and it implements U.S. mediation services, which are, as experience teaches us, the only way to bring about positive results.

The U.S. draft paper offers a chance for success for the next round of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, which will center on an agreed document of principles. If this materializes, it will constitute a great step forward, which will not only give new content to the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, but could also advance talks along the other tracks. In view of these possibilities, the U.S. document is entitled to a sympathetic welcome in Jerusalem, rather than the frowning with which it was received.

Commentator Believes Chance for Peace Lost

TA0607085993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 93 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Forget About Peace"]

[Text] Last week, Shulamit Aloni threatened that Meretz will quit the government if no real progress is made in the peace process within a year. I am not prepared to bet that she will really do what she says, but if her ultimatum is serious, I would advise her to be prepared to hand in her official vehicle and keep an eye out for a new private car in good condition. This is because peace—and on this I am prepared to bet—is not about to burst upon us within a year or even two. And I doubt whether we will see peace—especially with the Palestinians—in our time.

Fourteen years after the signing of the peace accord with Egypt and the creation of the autonomy framework, eight years after the Shultz initiative, 18 months after the Madrid conference, and after 10 rounds of unproductive talks in Washington, we have reached "the point of no return," but not in the sense that the prime minister meant it. The "point of no return" is the position in which each side has ensconced itself, and the chance of bridging the gap between them appears nil. In the meantime, we can forget about peace.

In the dictionary of political terms, it is acceptable to talk about the 11th hour. I fear that we are already beyond that point, although the mind refuses to absorb this bitter fact. Meron Benvenisti was the first to utter this pessimistic pronouncement, when he claimed years ago that the facts created on the ground have created an irreversible situation. The foresight of an eccentric intellectual is becoming an uncompromising reality. It is now clear that Israel is not willing to yield what the Palestinians want, and it is even clearer that the Palestinians apparently prefer the current situation to what Aloni's peace government is prepared to give them. It does not make any difference if they meet with 'Arafat or not; those parallel lines are not about to meet.

The facts created on the ground are very clear: 300,000 Jews are now living in the territories, and 700,000 Palestinians live in Israel as citizens of the state. Those who wonder how 100,000 West Bank settlers became 300,000 forget that the Palestinians (and the Americans) do not recognize the expansion of Jerusalem's boundaries. To them, those living on French Hill are also settlers. It is no coincidence that the battle for Jerusalem has already begun. Fifteen or 20 years ago, it might have still been possible to reach a compromise arrangement with Jordan on the West Bank. We all lost that opportunity. Now, the Palestinians will not make do with less than an independent state on all the territory captured in 1967. That is why there is nobody to talk to on the Palestinian side and why they feel there is nobody to talk to on our side. The Israeli Government is facing a tough dilemma over how to deal with part of its population, Jewish and Arab, and it is doubtful whether it can handle the problem when the moment of truth arrives without Israel becoming a regional version of Bosnia.

In the meantime, a dramatic development has also taken place on the other side: the rise of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is part of the Islamic fundamentalism that has raised its head in the Arab world and is threatening the entire peace process, and which is also responsible for the reemergence of the Massada complex among us. Many of us have new doubts about how far we should go in taking risks to secure arrangements that will not be worth the paper they are written on. Hamas has reduced the support given to moderate Palestinian leaders and turned others into extremists, and it has the Israeli leadership bulwarked behind a barrier of suspicion. The entire foundation on which the talks are taking place has crumbled. No peace can come out of it.

The problem is that none of the sides—that includes Jordan, Syria, Israel, and the United States—has produced an authoritative leader with imagination and daring who can pull the process forward and force us all to a new starting point of concessions and compromise. There were times when the leaders of states, presidents and prime ministers, foreign ministers and secretaries of state, were personally involved in the small print of the peace process. Ironically, the time may come when we long for Bush and Baker—the last Americans for whom navigating peace in our region really mattered. Since then, all the leaders have become bogged down in their own affairs. Al-Asad sits in his ivory tower, as though the whole thing had nothing to do with him. Clinton lets us know through Christopher that he has his own problems. Rabin wants something, but it is not clear what. What is clear is that he has more clout to prevent capital gains tax from being imposed on the stock exchange than to make a decision on dividing up the country.

All the sides have handed the process over to a lowly echelon of bureaucrats who lack authority and guidance from their leaders, who themselves lack any interest in being too involved and too daring and do not know exactly what they want and are not sure what their mandate is. It is as though peace has been handed over to a bunch of pencil pushers: There are coffee breaks and lots of shuffling of papers, rhetoric, and red tape. The shiny, white sail appearing on the horizon is not the peace dove. It is peace telling us from afar: "Bye-bye."

Talks Stalemate Prompts No-Confidence Motions

Tzomet, NRP Submit Motions

TA0607133793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] The Tzomet and National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset factions submitted no-confidence motions against the government against the backdrop of what they term the failure of the peace process and the severe harm done to Jewish settlements by reclassifying development areas. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the motions will be debated next Monday [12 July].

Likud Submits Motion

TA0707134093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government due to what it terms its erroneous and mistaken policy on the peace talks which encourages the Arabs to demand further concessions. Other issues cited in the motion are the absorption of immigrants and the government's handling of socioeconomic issues. The motion will be discussed next Monday [12 July] along with the motions submitted yesterday by Tzomet and the National Religious Party.

Katyushas Hit Western Galilee Near Border

TA0607044393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Several katyusha rockets hit northern Israel early this morning. There were no injuries, and only light damage caused. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the north says the katyushas hit the area of the Western Galilee close to the international border on the Israeli side.

In south Lebanon last night, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was lightly wounded in a clash with terrorists. The soldier was evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The incident took place near Sujud, in the eastern sector of the security zone. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says there were three terrorists involved in the attack and that IDF forces have been trying to ascertain whether any of the terrorists was wounded before they escaped.

After the clash, heavy exchanges of fire took place between terrorists and IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces. Several SLA outposts were attacked with katyusha rockets in the Shomera region, and the IDF and the SLA responded with tank and artillery fire. News agencies in south Lebanon report that in the IDF and SLA shelling, two children were killed and nine other people wounded.

Knesset Member Or Discusses Situation in North

TA0607072393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] What is the size and strength of our enemy in the north? Sometimes one has the feeling that two big armies are clashing there, which is not the case.

[Or] Judging by military criteria, it is not big in size. At the same time, when the reference is to civilians—and I am referring to our side—even a less strong enemy can inflict damage, as we witnessed last night. The damage could be material, but there could also be human casualties. We are facing the Hizballah organization, which opposes any peace talks. Iran is backing it with equipment, weapons, and instructions. The Lebanese Government is unable and, as far as we know, unwilling to restrain it. It also enjoys the very active support of Syria, which uses it as the element that maintains unrest in the area.

[Friedman] Is the political process, which is still continuing in Washington, influencing Israeli decision-makers to restrain the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reaction or initiative against Hizballah or are our hands completely free?

[Or] I do not believe it has an effect, but our hands are not completely free. After all, our mission is to provide protection for the northern settlements, and we must carefully consider what activities should be undertaken so that they will not be hurt. Nevertheless, I believe that the activities of Hizballah primarily and of other organizations are beginning to tip the scales. It is likely that the Israeli Government will have to take such action that will make it clear to the Lebanese Arab residents north of the security zone that if they allow Hizballah to operate freely, their lives will be far less quiet than so far.

[Friedman] Could you be specific on how this will be done?

[Or] I do not want to describe anything because we are not getting into matters of intelligence, but my remarks are based on intelligence information that we have. The IDF can use every kind of weapon or force in its possession—helicopters, other forms of air strikes, land forces north of the security zone, and other means—in a way that will make it clear to the residents of these regions that if they lend a hand to Hizballah and our settlements are disturbed, they will not enjoy peace either.

[Dan] What about the idea, often raised by opposition members, to expand the security strip?

[Or] Expanding the security zone would be pulling the deterrence option out from under our feet in advance. More than 200,000 people reside in the security zone

today. Do we need a north bank with up to 500,000 residents under our control? I believe this is not good, and we have been there before, after all.

[Friedman] Were you not commander of the Northern Command when the security zone was created?

[Or] Yes, I was the commander when we pulled out of Lebanon and established the security zone in its current form.

[Friedman] Looking back, do you not think that when you drew the northern line of the security zone, you made the mistake of leaving a certain number of Israeli settlements within the range of the katyushas?

[Or] Not at all. The security zone was not designed to protect northern Israel from katyusha attacks.

[Friedman] Perhaps this, too, was a mistake?

[Or] No, it was not. If we want to protect Israel from katyusha attacks, the security zone must be 30 km-wide. This means 500,000 people under our control. We have been there, and we remember the terror attacks we suffered while there. There is almost no terror activity in the security zone. The South Lebanese Army, which operates there, can control the current size of the security zone with the IDF's help. I wish to add, however: The security zone was designed to prevent infiltrations into Israeli territory and direct fire at our settlements, and it has succeeded. There has not been a single successful infiltration in seven years.

[Dan] I am not certain that the residents of the northern settlements can relax when they hear you. They want a real answer to the almost daily katyusha attacks.

[Or] I believe that no one has a total, real answer. Expanding the security zone is not the answer. Nonetheless, as I have said before, if the fine balance maintained in the north is upset, the IDF can create such conditions in the north that would make the situation very difficult for the Lebanese Government, Hizballah, and anyone who cooperates with it—and I using very soft language.

[Friedman] Is this the personal position of Ori Or, a distinguished Knesset member, or may we consider what you are saying here to be an official statement to which the other side should pay very close attention?

[Or] I believe that the other side should pay very close attention to what I am saying. I am not a member of the cabinet, but as chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, my status is official enough—and unofficial enough—to make it clear to them that such action is likely, doable, and may become a real option if they continue to ignore our message that we do not want to heat up the sector. This has no reference to the peace talks; it regards our northern settlements only.

Ben-Eli'ezer: No Need To Change Policy in North

TA0607073893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Construction and Housing Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer has said he has no doubt that terrorism will increase in parallel with progress in the peace talks. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer was speaking to our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv during a tour of Circassian and Druze villages in the Galilee this morning. He added that he believes there is no need to rush to change the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] policy in the north, despite the fact that northern settlements have come under terror attacks during the past month.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer also said that he would support holding direct talks with the PLO if he knew the PLO would not raise the issues of a Palestinian state, the right of return, and East Jerusalem in the negotiations.

Settlers Fear Massacres To Follow 'Arrangement'

TA0407125093 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Jul 93 p 4

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] "What would you do in the event of an arrangement?" Israeli diplomats visiting Qiryat Arba' last week asked Elyaqim Ha'etzni. "In my opinion, Arabs can be expected to carry out mass murders of Jews, and if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not around, some settlers are liable to respond like the Lebanese.

"What this means is that one nation will fight another. I assume that in such a situation, if many Jews are killed, the IDF will have to respond, because no government will let Jews be massacred or Arabs be butchered by Jews."

Ha'etzni's remarks were received with bewilderment.

On the part of the Foreign Ministry, the meeting was attended by Deputy Directors General Yosef Govrin and Moshe Yegar and by a group of diplomats about to leave for abroad as ambassadors and political attaches.

On 30 June, Foreign Ministry staffers toured Kfar 'Etzyon and Qiryat Arba'. They were received by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who was asked whether settlers would use force to nullify government decisions. Levinger chose to avoid an unequivocal answer. He said he did not believe Israel and the Palestinians would reach an agreement.

Former Knesset Member Beni Katzover showed the Foreign Ministry staffers apartments built by the government but not put up for sale. He warned that settlers plan to take these apartments and populate them with new settlers. [passage omitted]

Official Reports Jewish Majority in East Jerusalem

TA0607113793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 93 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] "A Jewish majority has recently been created in East Jerusalem for the first time since the Six-Day War," Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Avraham Kahila told members of the city's Planning Committee. He stressed that he is not referring to a Jewish majority in all of Jerusalem, but only in those parts annexed after the Six-Day War. Kahila, who bases his evaluation on data given to him by various sources, said that there are some 160,000 Jews in the part of Jerusalem annexed after 1967, while the number of Arabs in East Jerusalem is 155,000.

"The Jewish majority in East Jerusalem was created over the past 18 months, mainly because the Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood being set up between Neve Ya'aqov and French Hill is being populated quickly." Kahila estimates that the Jewish majority will continue to grow in the coming year. "Another 6,000 housing units will be set up in the area, and the building of a neighborhood on Har Homa will begin," he said.

He noted that "international elements, including some in the United States, are sometimes mistaken in identifying the eastern part of the city as Arab territory, but the truth is that the situation has fundamentally changed since the Six-Day War. Anybody discussing Jerusalem's future has to take that into account."

In response to a question, Kahila said that he is basing his remarks on data accumulated from the Jerusalem Municipality, the Jerusalem Institute, and the Construction and Housing Ministry. He pointed out that because he is responsible for planning and construction in Jerusalem, he has thorough knowledge of the issue.

The data in the latest Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook, issued by the Jerusalem Institute for Israeli Research, shows that between the Six-Day War and 1991, the population of Jerusalem grew by 105 percent, from 266,000 to 550,000. The Jewish population grew by 93 percent and the non-Jewish by 115 percent.

In metropolitan Jerusalem, which extends beyond the boundaries of its municipal jurisdiction, the Arab population increased at a faster pace due to increased emigration to Greater Jerusalem from the Hebron region and due to Arab emigration from Jerusalem and its environs. Up to late 1991, Jerusalem had about 345,000 Jews compared with 152,000 Arabs.

The 160,000 Jews currently living in what is called "East Jerusalem" are dispersed south, north, and east of the old municipal boundaries because in 1967 Jerusalem tripled its territory from 38,000 dunams to some 110,000 dunams. Some 17,000 dunams were confiscated in the 1970's under the initiative of Labor governments, and many neighborhoods were built on them.

Jewish Settlers Buying Homes in Center of Hebron

TA0507044993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] A secret attempt is underway in Hebron to purchase Arab homes to create territorial continuity between Jewish-owned property in the Cave of the Patriarchs, Hadassah House, and Tall al-Rumaythah. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the attempt is being carried out by a small group of settlers, who are being funded by contributions from the United States and France. He adds that so far 13 buildings have been purchased in the center of Hebron, in the casbah. The homes are purchased through Arab agents. The French Jews have also donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to renovate the Romano House in the casbah, which is to be turned into a yeshiva for hundreds of students.

Proposals To Ease Coalition Naval Blockade on Elat

TA0707132493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 93 p A10

[Report by Revital Levinstein]

[Excerpts] The coalition forces in the Straits of Tiran are tightening the naval blockade on Elat. The container vessel Zim-Haifa was held up at the entrance to the straits and was not permitted to proceed into the Gulf of Elat. For the first time, inspectors from the French contingent of the multinational force insisted on inspecting the containers in the hold of the vessel, something that cannot be done at sea. [passage omitted]

Zim-Haifa was directed to Haifa Port after being held up 17 hours in the Straits of Tiran, which caused tens of thousands of dollars in financial losses to the owners of the cargo and the vessel. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry spokesman Avitar Manor said in response that "the Foreign Ministry is exerting diplomatic pressure and has also suggested solutions to lift the naval blockade." He added that Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi appealed to his U.S. counterpart, Madelene Albright, and New Zealand's UN ambassador, the chairman of the Sanctions Committee.

He also said that the Foreign Ministry asked its ambassador in Washington, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, to become involved in the affair. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin called on U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown and suggested three possible solutions, to which the Zim Shipping Company also agrees.

Under the Beilin proposals, coalition officers board Israeli vessels in the Straits of Tiran and carry out searches while the vessel are at sail. Beilin also suggested that craft belonging to the coalition patrol the Gulf of Elat with the aim of ascertaining that the vessels are in fact reaching Elat and therefore do not need to be searched. He also suggested the possibility of deploying

coalition officers at Elat Port where they can carry out inspections according to their requirements.

Manor agreed that it is a pressing problem, but said that "Israel is the petitioner, and we cannot hold a gun to their head to speed up handling of the issue."

The prime minister's bureau said that the prime minister is not involved in the issue. Zim-Haifa is the fifth vessel in the past three weeks whose entry into the Gulf of Elat has been prevented by the coalition forces.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 July adds: "The United States has transmitted to Israel proposals to resolve the issue of vessels making their way to Elat. Our Elat correspondent Yehudit Silberstein has learned that the new proposals were presented to Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich in Washington and he has sent them to Jerusalem. This morning, hundreds of Elat Port workers demonstrated at the Tabah border crossing against the United Nations and the United States for making it difficult for vessels to sail to Elat, which is causing ongoing unemployment."]

King Views Foreign, Domestic Issues in Speech to Senators

JN0407205593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1702 4 Jul 93

[Speech by King Husayn to Senate president and members at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 4 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am glad to meet with Senate members—the King's private house—this elite group of Jordanians who have worked many years for the good and advancement of the country.

I thank my brother [Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi] for the remarks that express his personal and fellow senators' feelings toward me. We are brothers and comrades in a long march.

I am glad this opportunity has arisen not as a forum for me to deliver a monologue or to speak at length about my recent trips to the United Kingdom and the United States, but rather as a session to talk candidly and fraternally about all issues under these critical circumstances. Hopefully this will result in a common and clear appreciation of the delicacy of the situation and the size of the challenges, help our people and brothers in this good country, and increase our chances of realizing cherished objectives on the national and pan-Arab levels alike.

About my latest trip: The first leg of my trip—and, before that, the discussions I had with British officials—left me optimistic, encouraged, and comfortable.

Naturally, the British and the Americans have different perspectives. There are still issues on which we do not see eye to eye as far as how they should be approached at this point in time—for example, the Bosnia-Herzegovina tragedy, where we call for firm action to save not just the individual's right to his national soil but also to save the prestige and stature of the United Nations. If the efforts that must be made fail to achieve that goal, I think additional tragedies will transpire. This will include the spillover of hostilities on the ground into other territories, which will encourage others to move here and there and thus cause further losses and risks that cannot be contained in one area of the world and will pose a threat to the whole world.

Over the past 40 years, we have made friends around the world and sought through these friendships to advance our causes. Both in Britain and the United States, I placed emphasis on the United Nations, which will soon celebrate its 50th birthday. It was the start of a debate. We hope to expand these contacts to include many friends around the world, and I am confident they share our opinion that the world body should develop so that it better reflects the reality of today as opposed to the realities of the time of its inception. This becomes more imperative in light of recent upheavals around the world. As for this particular subject—Bosnia—we sensed deep appreciation everywhere for what this country is doing through the Jordanian Armed Forces with utmost efficiency, dedication, and capability. We have been approached with a request to double the size of our contribution to the forces [deployed in Croatia], and we hope to make the right decision about this request.

God be praised, Jordan's role is not confined to this region of the world. It has a major role in the international arena and in crisis areas that pose a threat to mankind everywhere. You are in the picture. At this stage, our observers are taking part in four peacekeeping operations in the world, and our troops are doing their part in the former Yugoslavia. In addition, we have fulfilled some of our obligations toward the victims, our Muslim brethren, who have been welcomed here. We hope that they will feel at home until the problem is solved and until they are able to return to their homeland under circumstances that make them feel safe and assured about their lives and natural rights.

Regarding Islam, our religion, and its image in the world, we must continue to intensify efforts to show the real, sound, and brilliant image of Islam. We must defend it in the face of the numerous, intensified, and increasing attempts to depict it in a different light as a result of the accumulation of both ignorance and complexes that have historically prevailed and governed the conduct of some people. Such an image has resulted from the acts of some deviants, here and there. It has also been caused by ignorance and perhaps by a feeling of frustration or the desire to rise to power in one way or another.

Here, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, we should prove to the world, God willing, that we are one family. We should successfully do that through our way of life and through the responsible behavior of the greatest majority of the members of this single family. The effects of our success or failure will inevitably be larger than the bounds of our country or its population. Our success in this regard will mean a great deal, and will prove that it will be shared by others if they believe in shura or democracy—call it what you like—and if they cooperate honestly and sincerely to fulfill their duty toward the coming generations, relying on our ancient history, which is full of such examples.

As a Muslim, Arab, and a Hashemite, I feel more than ever before that I am dutybound to appeal to all brothers inside and outside Jordan to be aware of the delicate circumstances and to defend the dearest thing in life and existence—our religion, faith, our tolerant Islam—against any attempt to distort it, harm it, or belittle its value, significance, and human influence. In this regard, I tried to fulfill some of my obligations. God willing, I will continue, whenever possible, to work and give.

There is interest in Jordan. Everyone is viewing with great interest what has happened and what is happening here. They want to know the story of this country with its limited resources and small area. There is increased

interest in it and in the way of life that it and the members of this one family have chosen.

We have explained that our country has been at the receiving end of every affliction that has ever beset the Middle East. Nevertheless, this country has held fast. Some predicted that this country would collapse or make changes or alterations, given the volume of the challenges that it has faced. However, it has proved that it is a firm bastion and an unwavering rock in the face of storms. It has also proved that, with the help of God, it will continue to be as such.

There is real interest in this country's return to democracy, beginning with the last parliamentary elections following the legal and administrative disengagement decision, which was made in compliance with Palestinian and Arab demands. Regarding the National Charter, the dedicated and genuine efforts made over many years by all concerned in this country—all schools of thought and all trends—have led to the crystallization and adoption of the National Charter. Human rights is also an important issue for the world, more so in comparison with other parts of the world, in this region and beyond. I explained what has taken place and what is taking place and shared with whomever showed an interest our vision of what lies ahead. I expressed my absolute confidence that we will follow the road we have chosen and that we will not deviate from this road, relying on the awareness, dedication, and integrity of everyone in our country and appreciating—we and all of you—that if we succeed, it will be a ray of hope for the Arab nation. And if we fail, God forbid, our many enemies will gloat over our failure. There are numerous enemies of democracy and our march. These enemies are in various dimensions in the country to our west and in every direction in this region. They are driven either by a feeling that it should not be said that there is an Arab country that is exercising democracy, or shura—call it what you will—and exalting the individual's humanity, rights, values, duties, and role. It is certain that this nation stands no chance unless, sooner rather than later, it takes the same road, and here I am not trying to meddle in others' affairs. But if we meet with success here, others will be encouraged to follow the example of this country. The success of this experiment will mark the beginning of salvation and the beginning of a revitalization of the Arab nation across the Arab world. As you have pointed out, this is not new to us. Shura is part of our life, as is democracy, whatever you like to call it. Our failure, God forbid, would mean the extinguishment of the torch and things in this region turning sour and heading toward further confusion.

As for the Palestine question—our foremost question regarding the rights of Palestinians on their national soil—it was impossible not to focus on this issue at this critical stage, at which those who moved to demand the legitimate rights of the Palestinians on their national soil displayed courage. I am talking about courage in the inclusive sense of the word—physical and moral courage. The Palestinian issue has a strong case; it always has. However, at last there have been favorable circumstances to defend it. I pray to God that we will be able to defend it forcefully and logically so as to win supporters and so that the world may understand its dimensions and focus on Palestinian rights on their soil. On the other hand, let me be honest with all my brothers, any jolting or disorder here should recall to all my brothers and everyone in this county and each and every member of this family the picture of the plots that targeted this part of the great Arab homeland and Palestine before and since the 1920's.

Any disorder here will expand the circle of possible solutions. This will result in less emphasis on the right of the Palestinians to their national soil.

I had a good impression about the atmosphere in Britain and the United States. My meeting with the new President gave me a good impression of an intelligent young man at the beginning of his presidency. I have noticed that the situation there differs from what some may imagine. When there is a transfer of power from one party to another, it is not a change of merely one person, but of an entire administration. We had candid and cordial discussions. The same applies to other meetings. During my presence in the U.S. capital, I tried to contact most of those who sought to contact us. I felt that it was useful to have contacts at all levels, be it at administration level or with the press and the two chambers of Congress—the House and Senate. We also held contacts with a number of our brothers there. We met with Arab envoys and the Palestinian delegation to the talks in Washington. God be praised, all the results were encouraging and good.

If we have to go into details, I will leave it to my brothers to raise the questions that we need to address. With regard to what I said during these meetings, perhaps not everyone here is acquainted with all that took place in detail because of some technical circumstances. However, what I said in Washington, in London, and in Amman much earlier is the same. I use only one language under all circumstances.

Returning to the homeland and its affairs, I greatly hope for the cooperation, awareness, honesty, and sincerity of everyone. At this delicate stage, the government has been transferred from one cabinet to another. The prime minister has been included in the change. This concerns the executive branch. At the same time, the House of Representatives concluded its a four-year term. Preparations are under way for the next free parliamentary elections, which we hope will constitute a new stride forward in terms of performance and participation. We hope that the elections will bolster, more than ever before, the solid bases which we all have laid down in the service of the coming generations. In my view, the change was timely. A look at the past stage since the last elections gives the impression that our journey throughout these years was not easy. At the beginning, a government assumed responsibility. Afterward, it handed power to another government. Regrettably, this

government did not live long. Afterward, I, unwillingly, chose for the prime ministry a relative of mine. However, such a move was necessary to ensure that the past four years would pass without problems that would lead to more than just replacing one government with another.

At the end of that situation, we withdrew from the picture and handed the responsibility to a new government headed by one of the sons of this country and an experienced leader on whom we rely and trust. This government—its head and members—is out of the political game as far as the next elections are concerned. This is so fair elections can be held and a suitable atmosphere secured to end this stage and resume our journey on the path that we have chosen.

Reviewing what has happened, I am quite proud that a great deal has been achieved during the last stage. There have been many positive points. There could be some negative points. This is natural. However, we hope that the next stage will witness further efforts. To the best of my ability, I will focus on the individual in this country. The individual should truly know that what is going on around him is not a dream, but a reality. He should know the value and influence of his vote. He should know the meaning of his right to vote. He should know that the interests of the country, the community, and the nation are greater than temporary personal interests.

In this country, as long as we live, we will not behave as if the earth, what is on it, what is over it, and what is under it is ours. God Almighty is the guardian of the march. We are the first to believe in man's rights on his land and soil, the right to exist, the right to live in dignity, and his right to know that in return for all these rights he has duties that he should perform. We will not behave in a way that would give us the results that perhaps we see in some of the region's countries. When it comes to real life, we find that there are some exaggerations, if we can say so. If we say shura or democracy, then we mean what we say. We will not accept anything to undermine or affect it. We also will not let anyone say that we do not mean what we say.

I believe that we are also passing through a transitional phase that will continue for years until matters settle down and until movement in our country takes its normal course—when the number of parties and different groups decrease and when the youths come to do their duties in the future phases and to shoulder their responsibilities. Everyday, we learn from our suffering and life more and more until we achieve the aspired results, God willing. The banner will continue to fly high, and each generation will hand it to another on the road to achieving our objectives.

On the Arab level, it is not the first time that I say and repeat that we are ready to approach any brother who approaches us sincerely and honestly. We have no ambitions or purposes behind this. Life and death are in the hands of Almighty God. Life is for this people, and responsibility should be toward them, here and in the Arab world. Personal differences have not affected us, and this has never been our course. However, all sides' interests, particularly the nation's interests, were above all other considerations. If we had differences with some sides, then this was over interpretations. We will continue to say the right thing under all circumstances. This is something that we will not give up and a dimension on which we should focus. Good faith is about good advice.

Regarding fraternal Iraq, this issue was discussed, perhaps, you might have heard some of my answers, but you have not heard the questions which led to these answers. Once again, we are against interference in the domestic affairs of any Arab brother, and against this brother's interference in our internal affairs in any way whatsoever.

We are for accord and reconciliation. Iraq had many opportunities—at the leadership level. Perhaps among the tragedies that we have experienced and are experiencing in the Arab world is the fact that it was unable to listen to sincere and faithful advice and to act accordingly. My concerns about Iraq and its people are many and great. My concerns are about partitioning, fragmentation, dismembering, and the continued suffering of these good people, who, under all circumstances and in all cases, sent their youth to this land to stand on our side.

The blood of the Iraqis was mixed with the blood of the Jordanians in defending our nation and its right to exist. I am still pained by the continued suffering of these people. We have tried to do the impossible, and we will continue, as circumstances permit, to help and aid them, in light of the situation I am experiencing in this world and on the humanitarian level and in light the restrictions imposed on us by the United Nations, and to work for Iraq's return, as soon as possible, to its nation and the world, given that it is one of the founding members of the United Nations, with its unity safeguarded.

We were asked what we wish for Iraq. We said national reconciliation, democracy, political pluralism, and safeguarding human rights on its soil and land. Some might ask: Why should we care? We cannot but care for Iraq. We cannot but care for any part of the greater [Arab] homeland. However, as for the question: Why don't you receive the new leadership, the Iraqi resistance, in Amman? The answer to this question is what you have heard. The question might have been omitted in one way or another.

I have said, and I repeat, I am against personalization in tackling matters nd issues. We have always been thus, and we will continue to be so. Peoples have the right to determine their course and to select their leadership. As a Hashemite, and out of my convictions, I believe man's ultimate objective is to please Almighty God. I have never held grudges against anyone. I have always been good to everyone. As a man, I have forgotten tough events I experienced in the past. This is because [Arab] interests are above all considerations, the Arab citizen's interest in his greater homeland, in Iraq and elsewhere.

We have stood beside Iraq with all our resources when we were surprised by a war between it and Iran. Our hopes were great. However, it seems that there were stronger forces that prevented the continuation of frank and clear relations. We were also surprised by the catastrophe in 1990. We have performed our duty. I am not ashamed of any of its dimensions—an attempt to tackle the Arab situation within the Arab fold.

At every Arab summit, the leadership in Iraq used to say that it did not call for using Arab force against Arabs and that it did not accept this. We did not encourage Iraq to fight Iran, a fraternal Islamic country. We hurt the most for the hundreds of thousands of victims on both sides. Nor did we encouraged Iraq regarding its step toward Kuwait, because, frankly, we did not expect it despite the difficult circumstances concerning relations between the two countries. We have stood beside Iraq, and we have stood beside the people of Iraq. And we will continue to do so until the distress is removed, the issue is resolved, and until there is an end to the suffering of these people, who will return to their nation, God willing, to life, and to their participatory role as soon as possible.

I traveled from Washington to the medical center. God willing, the findings were good. No trace has been found of the disease. I was told that I needed to undergo another checkup in nine months and for the first two years after the operation, if God wills that I am still alive, to make absolutely certain that the disease will not reappear, because there was no way to determine how long what I had took to surface in the way it did, although they thought it was many years. But they believe it was removed, and they are more reassured than ever before. Otherwise, my condition—with the exception of my right ear [laughs], it seems we have joined [the hard of hearing] in Jordan and everywhere. I might require simple surgery on my right eardrum, in which there is a very big hole caused by some military exercises and the trips I had to make by plane. On the whole, though, I am in good shape. We are at the gates of a new phase—one of building, efforts, and giving. We call upon God Almighty to grant us success in fulfilling our duties.

Proceedings of Meeting Detailed

JN0507120493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Jul 93

["Proceedings" of King Husayn's meeting with the Senate president and members at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 4 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My Lord, Your Majesty King Husayn, may God support and protect you.

Your brothers, sons, and soldiers, the members of the Senate, were looking with all hope, faith, love, confidence, and pride at your majesty's successful trip and continuous jihad for the sake of Jordan, the Arabs, and Islam. In every word and stand, you raised high the banner of the nation and defended it. You defended Jordan and its positions, based on justice, honesty, Arab pride, the principles of the great Arab Revolt to achieve Arab unity, freedom, and dignity. You defended Islam and the labels given to it as a result of suspect efforts and misunderstanding. The Arabs' dignity, shura, and democracy are demonstrated in Islam. I, personally, do not differentiate between shura and democracy. Islam is also the religion of peace, freedom, and human dignity. You also defended Palestine and the people of Palestine. You defended the nation in all its countries, because the Arab nation's objective, fate, and security are the same.

My Lord: Over the past 40 years, you have been the leader of Jordan and you have been an advocate of the Arabs' goodness. You called for closing Arab ranks, for Arab solidarity, and for adopting a unified position in this strange world, the world of despotic force, the world of tendentious media, and the world of international legitimacy, which is now at stake.

You defended the people of Palestine for the sake of their right to self-determination on their land, for the return of Jerusalem in accordance with the 14-century-old 'Umarite pledge. You defended the Arab individual's right to freedom and to participating in responsibilities, decisionmaking, and in serving, building, and defending the homeland.

My Lord: On behalf of my brothers, I congratulate your majesty for these continuous efforts and for this determination which inspires the youth's strong will and gives the coming generations dignity and loftiness. On behalf of my brothers, I congratulate your majesty on your safe return. We are reassured about your good health and strong determination. You are shouldering our concerns and represent our hopes. This country, My Lord, is a trust in your hands as well as in ours. This country's strength, survival, and steadfastness is a power for all Arabs and Muslims. This country, which embraces Mu'tah, al-Yarmouk, the prophet's companion, and the Hashemites, will always remain, as you want it to be, for the good of the Arabs and their pride, as well as for the good of humanity.

You have been the advocate of peace and reconciliation; you have defended Jordan and the Arabs in this world. America now is the sole superpower in this world. You did not stop in America only, but visited the United Kingdom. You visit all world countries for the sake of the Arabs, their benefit, and their cause. Such an effort, My Lord, is not only supported by us, but also receives our pride. Jordan and Husayn are not only on our tongues and in our hearts, but are also known throughout the world. They listen to you and understand you because you address the world in the language it understands—the language of this age, the language of human rights, and the language of democracy.

My Lord: We are certain that we can turn this country, as you want it, into a symbol. His majesty said many things

during his tour. However, after listening to his majesty, each one of us can express his opinion. Our firm position remains: We want this country to be protected and to remain strong, lofty, stable, and an oasis of security, peace, democracy, human rights, freedom, and dignity.

Sir, before, during, and after your trip, the country's main concern is the elections and issues related to elections. The country also speaks about peace and its long and difficult battle. Our lord has dealt with this subject. The people always say that the safety of this country is the first priority. We should not act—whether through democracy, freedom, or different opinions—in a way that encroaches on the security of this country. Issues like the alternative homeland, national unity, and internal security are sacred and taboo at the same time.

In light of this, his majesty has given permission to those who would like to speak. Mr. Kamal al-Sha'ir.

[Al-Sha'ir] Your Majesty, praise be to God for your safety.

Your Majesty has said that Jordan is passing through a stage which might be considered the most serious in its history. In this stage, Jordan is facing decisive challenges under very difficult and complicated regional and international circumstances. The letter of designation addressed to your new government contained your clear instructions to face these challenges in light of your firm principles and clear view.

The first issue is the general elections expected to take place this autumn. You stressed your concern to hold these elections on the basis of the Constitution which guarantees complete equality in terms of rights and duties. You also stressed your concern to facilitate the exercise of this right in the next elections so that they will be the cleanest, simplest, and most comprehensive.

Proceeding from your instructions to the government to attain more positive achievements and less negative ones, to live in a state of laws, and to maintain complete balance among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution—so that none of them will encroach on the other's powers—we believe there is a great need for amending the elections law to achieve two objectives. This is aimed at ending the constitutional imbalance and achieving better representation of the people.

The first objective is represented by confining the right of the voter to cast one vote for one candidate, in addition to another vote when minorities are taken into consideration. This aims at achieving equality among citizens.

The second objective is to facilitate registration and voting procedures so that the largest number of people will vote within the framework of a large-scale guidance campaign to highlight the importance of this practice.

We also believe that the other provisions of the law should remain as they are, particularly with regard to the number of deputies in each governorate. This aims at maintaining a balance of representation in terms of population and geographical distribution.

Your Majesty, we are aware of the distinction between human rights and democratic experiment. Jordan was among the first countries in the world to respect these rights since the foundation of the kingdom, despite the fact that it was treated unjustly. These rights were respected before the 1989 elections, and throughout the period during which the House of Representatives was absent. These rights are entrenched in the heritage and values of the great Arab revolt.

I would like to affirm here that developing the democratic institutions requires many decades. Therefore, the basic effort should continue to reinforce the executive branch which provides stability, safeguards security, and sponsors the process of development so that the society and institutions will grow in a healthy and sound atmosphere.

The other basic issue is the economic reform program adopted by the government to achieve several objectives. This program succeeded in reducing budget deficit and inflation rates and in increasing the reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan. We must adhere to a program with such results as reflected by the figures of these results.

The third issue is the battle for peace which we have been waging since the Madrid conference convened in October 1991. Jordan and the Palestinian people believe that this is a decisive issue that might be linked with their existence. Therefore, the only option on which we should wager and work for is rendering this process a success through the continuous work to restore Arab solidarity and unity of stand within the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and within all the Arab delegations participating in the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Since 1967, Jordan has been calling for the implementation of Resolution 242 as the only choice to restore Arab rights. This Jordanian call was based on two basic rules: A comprehensive solution and the participation of the international community as a fair mediator in the talks and a strong guarantor of its results. This Jordanian policy is continuous.

Thank you, Your Majesty.

[King Husayn] Sir, to go back to the elections once again, the brothers remember that in the letter of thanks I addressed to His Excellency Abu-'Imad [former Prime Minister and current Senate member Mudar Badran], I mentioned, among other things, a remark about the need to examine the dimension related to the voter and the one vote, except in the case you have kindly mentioned.

So far, no final position has crystallized. I want to have the same spirit which prevailed during the debate of the National Charter to prevail now. I do not think there is a better opportunity than this meeting to ask the brothers

to contribute, along with us, toward crystallizing a view, so the results will be closest to what we want and desire, if they are not perfect.

Let me be frank and clear with my brothers. Sir, you have said that we still need to go through a stage before we attain our goals and lay down the foundations in their final shape. First of all, we have to view the subject by concentrating on the right of this citizen, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. Was this right infringed on through the plan under which we conducted the recent elections? We should take the following into consideration—and I will be frank with all my brothers: We should concentrate on cohesion and unity of ranks in this country and prevent any party, on a level larger than any organization, from curbing the rights of others, one way or another. Therefore, in my opinion, we are in a stage at which we should debate everything and you should debate everything with the government before we reach a final decision in any direction or decide to keep things as they are, if this is what everybody wants.

After 40 years and having attained this status, I consider myself a big brother to all of you, if not according to considerations of age at least...

[Unidentified Senate member, interrupting] According to experience...

[King Husayn] I will not say my experience...

[Senate President al-Lawzi, interrupting] In your esteem, respect, and love.

[King Husayn] What I am saying [about the age factor] might not be true in this place, but it might be true as regards the younger generation. We are eager in the forthcoming stage to safeguard the rights of our people and kinsmen in the less fortunate regions, in terms of care and attention. There might be another trend, to say, for example, that there should be more votes for densely populated regions. I think, however, that this will be at the expense of other parts and regions of the homeland which we should raise to a higher level and listen to their opinion to help them and achieve equality in the future between everybody. Then we will have a comprehensive, complete awakening, God willing.

This is on the one hand. On the other, I wish to assert that I am not siding with any team against another, or faction against another. I am with you all, for you all. We are also observing another important dimension, that national unity must not be prejudiced at all, in any negative direction. Any flaw, God forbid, will have serious consequences similar to the hardships faced by our fathers and forefathers when they salvaged this land from what befell another dear territory for us and a cause which we consider of prime importance for all of us.

In terms of reality, Abu-'Imad [Mudar Badran] perhaps supports my argument, also Abu-Thamir [Ahmad 'Ubaydat], and the brothers who assumed responsibility, that we cannot achieve the desired progress unless we have a balance between the branches of power. If one branch overshadows another and we speak about the law and do not follow it, then this is very dangerous. If the government comprises half the members of the House of Representatives plus one, so as to continue, then the situation will be very serious. For any government to be subject to constant pressure by people, deputies in the next stages, to address small matters that enhance their status and influence in the society at the expense of public interests, is also illogical. We need a strong administration comprising the most skilled people we can gather. It should also be dynamic and effective. We need long-term programs in all fields, economy, culture, education. We should also not subject our country to repeated upheavals. Some areas should be above differences, unless the aim is to upgrade and enhance them.

If we view matters—you have kindly noted that we need decades, well, I hope it will not take that long—any situation that might arise from dialogue in this stage will also be temporary, if a change takes place. This is because we still have not arrived at the situation we want, and we will not reach it quickly—4, 8, 12 years. We might later return to our old situation. When we organize our situation politically and find that the parties became fewer in number and we see platforms and clear ideas, then the situation will be satisfactory.

I believe a date for the elections will be set soon. By soon I mean setting the date, not the elections themselves. We will move on afterward to the next stages and pursue dialogue and debate on the best way to meet all these needs and address all these negative points or fears.

We will take into consideration, and this is agreed upon with the government, the time needed so as to complete the lists and get the new full names, since the objective is not only registering names but also making things easy and organizing the forthcoming elections in a distinguished manner compared with the previous elections, despite the fact that what we have seen and achieved so far is a source of pride for us all.

At the same time, we should not stop working during this stage. After all, it is impermissible for us to remain where we are now. The government is therefore asked to work and the sons of the homeland are asked to help the government play its role and carry out its duties to the best of its ability, by continuing the process of development and addressing urgent matters requiring care and attention.

The economic situation is one of our main concerns. In my recent trip, I met with the director of the World Bank and the IMF, in addition to the governments with which I had a chance to speak. We concentrated a great deal on the situation of this country, while holding our head high, thank God. This country, as I have mentioned at the outset, received the negative results of all developments in this region. This is an honor for it, whether toward the Palestine question or any other question. If we compare

Jordan with any other country, we will see that what has been achieved is very great, praise be to God.

Development has continued in all fields— the Arab Army, the Armed Forces, economy, education, health and human services. We have concentrated on all these aspects. If we look at the picture, we have Israel from one side and what Israel has received and is still receiving, and this country, which stands on a confrontation line, and we have local and foreign debt, whose size is measured in connection with commitments or promises we had received from brothers of us, otherwise perhaps it would not have been this size. Despite everything, we thank God. We started to take the road of correction, and the indebtedness was reduced and will be reduced more. Everybody acknowledges that what we have done, despite difficulties, is unsurpassed. All this is along the road of, God willing, delivering this heavy burden.

We are doing our best to concentrate on the question of indebtedness, to get some of these debts written off, one way or another. We are going forward, and we have things to encourage us that the results will be positive, God willing. However, we need more patience and organization and work so as to overcome this critical stage, and not to be in a situation where we find ourselves more besieged and under an impression that any party can bring us to our knees. We will bow only to God. In return, and out of concern for responsibility and performing duties and frankness with my brothers, the voices being raised—and I heard at this Court shortly after my return—people saying: Let us defy this world and let this people be starved more, because they will be satisfied more. I find this a strange thing to say. By the way, this people did not starve alone. In 1989, when we received the first blow and the dinar was shaken, the situation in the occupied territories was affected concerning our kinfolk and brothers. Every situation we have been through has had an effect on the occupied territories. Our steadfastness, resolve, and strength are part of the steadfastness, resolve, and strength of our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territories. The contrary, God forbid, will result in chaos and an unsatisfactory situation for us and for them and for the Arab cause in these circumstances in particular.

The battle for peace is indeed a tough battle. I believe that if the battle leads to the desired results in terms of implementing Security Council resolutions, restoring Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil and securing recognition for them by everybody, and addressing the situation after the great earthquake that hit the world and what happened in the Arab world, if we succeed in this battle—taking into consideration that we did not go to this battle until after we met here in Amman on the broadest level and raised the issue and chose to go—this success could be greater than any military success, if circumstances allow this achievement.

We should continue and try. The cause, basically, is just and strong, but there was incompetence in presenting and defending it in a proper way. The coordination among the concerned [Arab] delegations is at its highest levels. The meetings, I personally attended here, gave me the impression that, praise be to God, on the Arab level there is a kind of distinguished work in this issue in particular compared with other things. This is a good omen.

On the other hand, I have a feeling that a mistake was made and should be tackled. Since our choice was to go to the people, to meet with our kinsfolk and brothers, and to decide together on whether or not to go to Madrid, and since we decided to go, everybody has a right to know more and more about the detail. We, of course, have no right to deal with this alone, however, we should agree on this with the concerned Arab parties. You might find that the picture is not the same picture presented now, it might be different to a certain degree. Many intensive efforts were made. Although we should be very cautious, I cannot say that the picture is as dark as we always see it in the media. The process is not simple at all, but—and there may be some different interpretations—I believe there is a need for a detailed explanation of what is taking place to people everywhere. I believe that this should also be tackled. Things should not continue as they are now. Citizens and people have a right to continuously know where things have reached, what are the difficulties, what are the stands.

With regard to the new U.S. Administration, my assessment is that after tackling some problems and after succeeding in this, my impression is that the president, as well as the administration, will intervene directly and exert greater efforts in the coming stage.

In my opinion, in one way or another, not all people have access to the right and full picture now. This should be tackled in the future. I do not know what the results will be. Our position supports the Palestinian stand in terms of their right to the national Palestinian soil. When there is talk about Resolution 242, our stand on this is known; when the discussion deals with all the occupied territory as one unit this is considered progress in the right direction. There are many difficulties, and our people and brothers are suffering. However, I believe there is a need to continuously give further explanation on the detail of these dimensions to our citizens and to our brothers participating in shouldering the responsibilities so that all will have a clear idea of what is taking place.

We will tomorrow receive His Excellency brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, on a visit. Frankly, I am very concerned—as an observer and a partner at the same time—to do our utmost to keep the Palestinian arena cohesive. Any imbalance in this arena will have other disastrous consequences in addition to what we are facing.

As for the restoration of the al-Aqsa Mosque, things are proceeding in a satisfactory manner, thank God. I think that competent international agencies have understood our message, that we will in no way accept any change in the equation regarding the responsibilities we have inherited and we bear toward Jerusalem and other holy

places, and that any party seeking to give support can do so through well-known competent agencies. We therefore prevented any attempt that might be at the expense of Jerusalem and our holy places and Arab and Islamic rights in holy Jerusalem.

I am not sure if there is any comment.

[Senate President al-Lawzi] Your Excellency Mudar Badran.

[Badran] First of all, thank God for your safe return.

[King Husayn] Thank you.

[Badran] What you have mentioned, Your Majesty, is reassuring for us, thank God.

[King Husayn] God bless you.

[Badran] [passage omitted] Concerning the general elections, a question raised by Kamal al-Sha'ir, I would like to make the following remark. He said there is a constitutional flaw. If the issue concerns a constitutional flaw, then it does not need many meetings and consultation. Perhaps the party that can decide on this is the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution. If, however, the issue relates to improving the elections and the Elections Law, then his majesty has said a great deal about this issue and noted that it needs studying, meetings, and making a decision. Our king is neither for nor against [amending the Elections Law], thank God. Do the establishments think of this formula as closer to achieving justice or not? Your Majesty, through your studies of this subject, this no doubt is in your hands.

Every official and citizen in this country cares about cohesion, which is the basis and the solid rock on which all plots are destroyed. Your Majesty, allow me to say that we could be targeted by plots. This is possible.

[King Husayn] Not only possible, we are indeed targeted by plots.

[Badran] The solid people will destroy plots against this country. One basic point, whatever the form of the Elections Law—and now I am neither for nor against it—if it is going to create more cohesion, then welcome...

[King Husayn] Of course.

[Badran] But if it is going to make the society disintegrate, then we do not need it.

[King Husayn] I support you and all my brothers in this one hundred percent.

[Badran] If it is going to bring about disintegration, then we do not need any amendment. We have been conducting our affairs this way for 40 years and things are fine, thank God. Excuse me for saying this, Your Majesty, but we have tolerated a great deal regarding the question of the current House of Representatives. Perhaps I was the first to take the floor of this House, and I endured a great deal. However, my faith was never shaken for a moment. My faith stems from your faith, Your Majesty, and you constantly encouraged me to hold on. So we found democracy growing in this country, until we became a higher example for our Arab world. His majesty the king and all of us also endured a great deal to achieve our purpose. Thank God, I can say now that his majesty's patience has led this march to its current status, so we became an example in the Arab world and the world at large of the freedom and democracy in this country. The House of Representatives is in its last days. I hope our higher example will continue. His majesty the king has knocked and opened this door and taken this road, despite everything that has happened. Therefore, God willing, what happened will contribute to the good of this country. Any experiment in this regard would not be strewn with roses. There must be thorns, obstacles, and holes. We have managed to overcome all obstacles, thanks to his majesty's sharp insight and future outlook and patience. We also never made impromptu, unstudied decisions. His majesty always instructed us to study everything and he taught us to be patient and endure a great deal. This experiment, this leadership is the light by which we go. Thank you.

[Senator Dr. Sa'id al-Tall] Thank you, Your Majesty, for this valuable briefing. Praise be to God for your safety. In fact I would like to discuss a matter that has nothing to do with the elections, if you please. I watched your Washington news conference and your address at the Brookings Institute with interest. Indeed, your answer to Dr. Kamal al-Sha'ir has almost covered my question but I would like to make a simple, two-pronged remark. The first is a question about your personal feelings and impressions on the current trend in the negotiations. The second is that the Palestinian delegation is now insisting that the document of principles must include the issue of Jerusalem. The delegation is right and we all support it. On the other hand, the Israeli enemy insists that the document should not include anything about Jerusalem.

If the two stands becomes poles apart and a deadlock ensues, what stand should be adopted on the national Jordanian level and on the Arab level?

[King Husayn] I think the answer lies in the following: If we view the developments—Madrid and the invitation and what followed—and take the basis, that is Resolutions 242 and 338, which means peace through negotiations. Resolution 242 concerns states and occupied territories that belong to these states. On the Palestinian side, the discussion concentrated on a transitional phase leading to the final status but based on 242, that is in implementing that resolution. Therefore, the problem developed because the Palestinian side—and I believe they are right to take this stand and give that opinion. They want to know the result. I have addressed the question several times. [I told them] You are speaking to us of a transitional phase, transitional to what exactly? No answer was given, such as that the transitional phase is a period of calm leading to the final phase when all the parties feel that they can make progress and proceed forward.

Therefore, this time I attempted—I also attempted the same thing before—and I concentrated on this point; namely, that irrespective of the transitional phase, the Palestinian side wants to feel and know in one way or another the features of the final picture. I think that we can then say that many issues and problems can be tackled in a much faster way. This is the problem. I hope to have given an answer to your question. [passage omitted]

[Senator Hamad al-Farhan] We are all rational people here, and the people we will vote for to enter the parliament, regardless of what they may be—Leftists, Islamists, or pan-Arabists—must, in the end, join the mainstream. If they start to stir up problems, we have the solution in the Constitution. Like all legislative councils in the world, our Consitution says that any legislative council that reaches the point where the attitude of a bloc in that council runs contrary to the decision of a trusted leadership and the interests of the country, then the council must not remain an obstacle in the face of the country's interests. In that case, it would be legitimate to dissolve such a council.

I believe, Your Majesty, that you can rest assured that whatever course the upcoming elections take, the country's stability and security will not be risked. Therefore, any solution—taken after proper consultation—would not make you, or me, feel there will be any risks.

I'd like to mention another point that his majesty has not touched on. You have kindly explained your position on the United States and Britain. I believe this is a sound position: Not defiance, and not total submission. This is good and will not lead to any domestic disorder. Your entire people will agree on this position. You have also noted our pan-Arab position. Our pan-Arab position is the same: Not a defiance of, or submission to any one. This also means internal stability. Therefore, there is no fear for our foreign and Arab relations if you stick to your current position, and your people support you. I believe there is no fear from any upcoming elections, regardless of the system under which you hold them. I also believe these elections will not threaten the security, stability, and continuity of your democratic experience, which will not fail. I think that, in this case, you can rest assured that the march is not under any threat.

His excellency the former prime minister noted the challenges we face. If the domestic situation is correct, then challenges can be faced. True, we are not a bunch of Samsons, we are not geniuses, we are not an empire, and we are not an overwhelming power, but we can stand fast.

I will not touch on the peace process. I have a certain view on it, and this view is not ideological. All my calculations make me dubious about this process. But, I do not advocate that Jordan, or any other Arab party, should show an inflexible position to cause the failure of that process. In my calculations, this process will fail. But, I do not advocate an inflexible position, either from Jordan or any other Arab party, that would force the results to agree with my calculations.

Allow me to mention one last point. I believe that, seemingly, security is not a problem, except from one angle; a domestic one. This angle is the responsibility of the executive power, in which you shoed your confidence and in which you will in the future ask the people's deputies and senators to show their confidence. I am talking about finding a solution to the deep-rooted, basic domestic problems. The problem of 60,000 or 70,000, soon to be 80,000, unemployed graduates. If conditions continue to worsen, it could pose an internal threat to security and the [democratic] experience that is greater than that posed by 20 or 30 deputies from a certain trend, who were somehow elected. One can discuss things with, and convince these deputies, but 60,000 desperate people constitute a real threat to the country.

I believe there is another aspect to the domestic issue; disparity in living standards. There is a growing problem here. Under current conditions, and under the economic adjustment program and economic freedom—which were described as an achievement—there are some 1 million people who may become filled with hatred and threaten security, to the extent that they cannot be contained.

Concluding, I believe Your Majesty should pay attention to the elections and to our foreign and Arab relations. But, greater attention must be given to instructing your executive branch to pay attention to the factors of political stability, which must be supported by social stability. I am optimistic in this regard and I have no fears. Thank you, Your Majesty.

[King Husayn] Thank you, sir. I still believe that the effects of failure, God forbid, will be much greater than the size of our country and greater than us. Therefore, we discuss it as the other part of the equation. Any challenge has two possible outcomes: Success or failure. Many people are wagering that we will fail. The reason is very clear. To the west of us [in Israel], they do not want us to succeed. They want to appear to be the only democracy in the region despite the fact that, in my view, the picture is distorted. Especially if we look in detail into human rights, and particularly the human rights of Palestinian citizens and their suffering. But, they claim to be advocates of democracy, freedom, and so forth. They do not want to see the emergence of an Arab country that truly exercises all these dimensions in a correct manner.

There are also, and I do not wish to be specific, some people who believe that the clock can be stopped, or turned backward. I believe that this is illogical and runs against the nature of things. The attempt by some people to stay where they were will only lead to problems, turmoil, and disasters that will affect us all. There are also the fears of various movements, groups, or schools of political thought. Our success here in setting, in practice, an example, and in meeting all the principles, objectives, and goals and in rising to the required level, will in itself set a positive example. This example will be an influential and effective one, and may lead—and we

implore God this will be true—to the start of a process of positive change on a scale much larger than Jordan's boundaries.

Regarding the peace process, I agree with you. The result may be the failure of all these efforts. But, if this happens, we implore God that we will not be the ones to blame for this. Our cause is just and strong, so let us raise it all the time, in sincerity and determination, confident that right will inevitably triumph. If we have failure, the party responsible will be held responsible for all the consequences and the dimensions before the entire world. [passage omitted]

Regarding, for example, the problems and tragedies we are experiencing in our Arab homeland, I am sure that a day will come when everyone will clearly see this country's role played throughout its lengthy journey in the service of the objectives of accord, development, stability, and security among all its brothers. Some people will also realize that they have burdened this country with things that should not have been placed on its shoulders.

Regarding the recent events we have experienced in the past few years, the picture is still unclear, even to me, in all its dimensions. However, I wanted here to focus on the Arab's rights. I believe that time will come when an Arab, regardless of his position in the Arab homeland, will feel that he has rights. At that time, the tragedy of hundreds of thousands of people moving from one place to another, for various reasons, that was seen in the past, may not recur in the future. Anyone from this or that area who travels to a country, and later obtains its citizenship, but who also maintains his original nationality—and this may be a sort of recognition of this man's rights—such a man, along with his son and grandson who, in the 1940's for example, lived in, served, and constructed a certain area in our Arab homeland—should not in the future come under circumstances that would remove him from that area and drive him away in the way that happened in the past, if these dimensions are tackled. All this is part of the battle we are now waging in the Jordanian arena to entrench the bases and pillars. Is it right to keep matters as they are? Our success will mean much. If we achieve success here it will first convince some people that this country will yield to its burdens. Consequently, they can search for another Arab area if they so wish—I pray to God that such an area will not exist. [laughter]

They wagered much on this matter in the past, but, God be praised, we remained steadfast with our heads high. Some people inside and outside Jordan made such wagers.

The basis of all this is that man will ultimately pass away at a set date. This people, however, will remain, God willing. All that I want and seek is that we all should assume our responsibilities and know their meaning. Consequenlty, the matter will not be that of persons or regime, as it is sometimes called, or a group of people, but rather it is the cause of a people who belong to a nation. Accordingly, everyone should assume the responsibility and proceed forward. God willing, we hope there will be a situation in which we will see our Arab world with a different image. Even regarding unstable Europe, which experienced and continues to experience tragedies, I feel much pain for not finding in our Arab world anything similar to what we see and sense there. Anyone in Europe can move from one area to another with an identity card and a driver's license. Meanwhile, in the one [Arab] nation, with its history, past, present, and all other factors that one can mention—the Arab man who travels from one place to another will face restrictions, barriers, and borders, in the same way we are experiencing.

Regardless of its regimes and their size, Europe has achieved much. I believe that the Arab man has the right to at least experience such conditions in his great homeland. I hope this will also be achieved, God willing. The basis, however, is that we should remain steadfast and proceed forward, God willing. God is the sponsor of the march and the one who grants success. [passage omitted]

[Senator Ishaq al-Farhan] [passage omitted] We take pride in King Husayn's entire march, particularly in the past four years in which this march was a distinguished one. No other Arab country has experienced such a march, despite the fact that some Arab countries such as Yemen [sentence incomplete as heard]. I visited Yemen a few days ago to congratulate them on the holding of parliamentary elections. Many forces in the region and the world wagered on holding these Yemeni elections. The fact that they were held has entrenched the unity between the two parts of Yemen. Unity is a strategic objective of the Yemeni people. I thus found some similarity between the marches of these two countries. Perhaps they are two candles in the southern and northern Arabian Peninsula, leading democracy to overwhelm the whole peninsula, God willing, and so this peninsula may become a strategic depth for the Arabs and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Regarding the election law, we do not believe that it is an obstacle. It was implemented for several years; it had been a permanent law and was amended in 1986, and was endorsed by the House of Representatives. The issue, however, is not this law and its amendment. Any law contains negative aspects and loopholes. We support improvement and development but through the legitimate channels and the institutions we respect. [passage omitted]

[King Husayn] [passage omitted] Regarding Yemen, no doubt that it is a joy for us all. We have high hopes that God will guide them, God willing, toward further stability and progress. We also hope that democracy there will be a new beginning for a promising and bright future, God willing. [passage omitted]

As I said, our position supports and backs the Palestinian side. We want to see tangible and acceptable

results in the Palestinian arena. In addition, full coordination is continuing with all parties concerned.

There is nothing proposed for discussion. If the basis is honest elections and the calling on everyone throughout this homeland to play his role in the new phase. [sentence incomplete as heard] Perhaps in the past phase some people had some doubts about the entire election process. Perhaps, these doubts do not exist now. God willing, we hope there will be as much participation as possible in the coming elections and that all results will be positive and good.

In addition to all the achievements of this country, we are actually pleased to see this country a venue for the free men of this Arab homeland. I have high hopes that there will be rostra allowing the intellectuals in the great homeland to say whatever they were prohibited from saying under the circumstances that we have previously experienced throughout the great homeland. I also hope that there will be authors who will return to writing, which vanished for a long time. Praise be to God for enabling us to choose the appropriate circumstances, prior to which we were given no opportunity to return to democracy, consultations, and the sharing of responsibilities by everyone in this country. This is our path and line from which we will not deviate, God willing. [passage omitted]

Further on King Meeting With 'Arafat, Statements

JN0607192693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn conferred with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at the al-Hashimyah Palace today on the distinguished bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The constants of these relations and the coordination and integration that characterize them were stressed in the service of the national and pan-Arab causes.

Comprehensive and in-depth discussions were made on various Arab and international issues that concern the region, foremost of which is the peace process in light of the end of the 10th round of negotiations. Discussions also dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian full and continuous coordination and harmony, and ways of ending the suffering of the people in the occupied territories in light of the Israeli repressive policies.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing bilateral coordination on all issues on a clear and solid basis, and the importance of Arab coordination on the peace process.

An atmosphere of seriousness and frankness prevailed in the talks between the brothers, and emphasis was made on the unity of objectives, and the need to consult on various issues that serve the objectives of the peace process. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat described the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks held in Amman today as positive and good.

In a statement following the talks to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY and Jordan television, King Husayn expressed pleasure at meeting with President 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, King Husayn said: Our objectives are the same—reaching a better future for the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, and for the whole region.

His majesty stressed that the talks were successful, and that the results will be witnessed within the next days and weeks.

Answering a question on the visit that some U.S. Administration officials will make to the region, and whether they will carry new ideas and proposals on the peace process, his majesty said: The dialogue with the U.S. Administration is continuous, and I hope that they will bring new ideas. For our part, we will present our views and proposals, which stress the firmness of our position that the Palestinian people should have their rights in accordance with the bases of comprehensive peace in the region.

For his part, President 'Arafat thanked His Majesty King Husayn for making possible this good and happy chance to meet with him in Amman. [passage omitted]

President 'Arafat said the current peace process is a battle in which we are engaged at all levels along with our Arab brothers, especially our beloved brothers in Jordan, with whom we have a joint delegation.

He said the future Jordanian-Palestinian confederative relation is the natural free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

Editorial Views Meeting

JN0707100293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jul 93 pp 1, 32

[Editorial: "King Husayn-'Arafat Meeting"]

[Text] Based on firm, stable, and distinguished bilateral relations, and in a very serious and frank spirit, His Majesty King Husayn met with his brother Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, the two sides once again emphasized the constants of their relations and what distinguishes them in terms of coordination and integration between the two political leaderships.

This meeting comes amid significant and profound political developments related to many important Arab issues, epecially to the Palestinian issue—one which we, in Jordan, look at as a fateful national issue and deal with out of our feeling of deep responsibility, as we have done for many decades.

There is no doubt that developments in the peace issue and the indecisive results of the 10th round of negotiations were the main concern of the two political leaders. These issues were the subject of discussion between King Husayn and his brother Yasir 'Arafat who described yesterday's talks as positive and good—just like all other Jordanian-Palestinian meetings.

Therefore, it was not strange for His Majesty King Husayn to say at the end of the fraternal meeting that the talks were good and distinguished and that there was total understanding between his majesty and the Palestinian president on the matters discussed and reviewed at such a high level of understanding and mutual trust between brothers.

It was also natural for President 'Arafat to describe his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn as a good and happy occasion—one that provided an opportunity to reinforce close brotherly ties and strengthen means of understanding and joint coordination not only between the two political leaderships but also between the two fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples who share joint hopes, challenges, and fates.

As we follow with great satisfaction the relations of deep and extensive understanding between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships, and we look with confidence and hope at our common fate, we have no doubt that such serious, cordial, and continued meetings will play an effective role in reinforcing the common pan-Arab stand of Jordanians and Palestinians inside and outside the negotiating hall.

Deputies Question Government's Election Law Stand

JN0607085193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 93 p 3

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—The proposed one-man-one-vote system for Parliamentary election came under fire at a public rally held at the Professional Association Complex Sunday [4 July] night.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Secretary-General Ishaq al-Farhan said Parliament must endorse any possible changes to the law.

The proposed system will have negative effects on the national unity, Dr. al-Farhan added.

Calling for the representation of various political groups in the coming Parliament, Dr. al-Farhan, said that Parliamentary election should be "fair and free."

Questioning the stand of the present government vis-a-vis the coming elections, Dr. al-Farhan asked: Why doesn't the government announce a date for the coming elections? The government should announce the date of the elections and end the mystery, he said. It has no excuse for not doing that, he said.

Echoing al-Farhan's views, deputy Salim al-Zu'bi said that the one-man-one-vote system was bound to transform a deputy into a representative of one constituency. He said any changes to the law must go through the constitutional channels. He said if possible amendments to the law are considered as violations of the Constitution, they would be contested in a court of law.

"This government is solely appointed to conduct the elections and not for any other purpose," said Layth Shubaylat, another deputy who opposes the one-man-one-vote system.

He said the present government has no right to "touch any paper that proposes a new election law."

Mr. Shubaylat called for a mass boycott of the coming elections should a new election law be imposed by the "government without acquiring appropriate constitutional backing."

These views were backed by Mazin al-Sakit, a senior member of the Arab Democratic Party, who said that the imposition of the one-man-one-vote system was "bound to backfire."

Such a system, he added, would impede rather than give momentum to progress in democracy. He said that any amendment to laws should go through and be endorsed by the legislative authorities.

Editorial Views Democratization, Election Law

JN0607090193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "No Fear in Change"]

[Text] Until Jordanians become fully engaged in the process of ruling over themselves through proper, equally representative and multi-party elections, Jordan cannot claim to be democratic in the full sense of the word. Democracy is being practised in different shapes and forms all over the world. Nowhere are people completely content with whatever form of democatic rule they have developed. However, the best democracies are those in which intellectual pluralism—full range debate—is being practised alongside political pluralism. Democracy as it has developed through the ages has become a form of consensus over mainstream politics. It is, therefore, extremely important that dialogue should be maintained and guarded all the time and on every issue possible in order to guarantee that each issue of public concern is fully explored by as many people as possible.

It was, therefore, extremely heartening and reassuring to hear His Majesty King Husayn urge Jordanians to hold national dialogue before they decide on any changes to the Election Law. And true to the King's vision and expectations Jordanians have already been debating the merits and demerits of of changing the law for quite sometime.

In the case of the Election Law, change seems to be a desired path. Not only does the leadership, that triggered the process in the first place, favour some changes, many people think that amending some articles of the law would be a healthy endeavour. As His Majesty the King has repeatedly stressed an amended, or new, law should address mainly the issue of equal representation, the guarantee to a healthy representative legislator. True, there are some grey areas that many fear to tread on, but venture into we should, sooner rather than later. On the other hand the political imbalance that prevailed within the last 30 years, due to domestic, regional, and international circumstances, need to be addressed.

King Husayn has already set the mechanism for the change, a National Charter-style conference that would group all political shades.

Those who have doubts should nevertheless have no fear. The human experience is made of continuous experiments and constant change. We should only fear stagnation and the clinging to old ways and methods. There is surely no fear in change, but only expectations and the joys that the unknown promises.

Columnist Sees 'Conspiracy' Behind Shaykh's Arrest

JN0607150893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jul 93 p 28

["Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "A Case of a Blind Shaykh"]

[Text] One cannot help thinking at times that the "civilized" Western world is a jungle in which the strong devours the weak and the powerful conspires against the powerless.

It took the United States—which brags about its security services and their advanced technological tools—three years to find out that blind Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman used false entry documents.

In the same context, Egyptian authorities found out after five years that the shaykh—transformed by Western media into a superman for unknown reasons —had taken part in a clamorous demonstration. Thus, they took his case to court the same day he was arrested by U.S. authorities under the pretext of using false documents.

This "scenario" shows there is a game aimed at deporting and extraditing the blind shaykh to be tried on charges related to explosions and acts of violence in Egypt in the past. These acts are no doubt to be condemned according to all norms and ethical, human, political, and religious standards.

It is not reasonable to defend Shaykh 'Umar if he is indeed behind the "scourge" spreading like fire in Egypt. It must be observed, however, that a conspiracy does exist and that this blind shaykh could become a scapegoat for a large operation. He perhaps has nothing to do with this operation.

What sheds some light on this case is that official Egyptian quarters had earlier accused the shaykh of working for the CIA. This accusation was later withdrawn. And now the same charge is being leveled again.

Is the blind shaykh so strong it requires mobilizing the powerful United States in its entirety to face him?

It is certain that when the United States gave the shaykh permission to stay on its territory, it knew who the shyakh was and knew everything about his papers and remained silent. Now it is declaring war on the shaykh for reasons that may be revealed by imminent developments in Egypt.

Columnist Terms Shaykh 'Victim'

JN0607183193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jul 93 p 26

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "The Case of Shaykh 'Umar"]

[Text] There has been a deliberate exaggeration of the case of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is being

presented to the West as an Islamic imbodiment of evil, a man who intends to commit evil actions motivated by his ideology.

With this U.S. exaggeration, the Serbian criminals and the atrocities of the Israeli occupation shrink in comparison with the image of the blind shaykh and the spotlight on his alleged mistakes. It seems that Western, and particularly U.S., circles have succeeded in exploiting the ideological excesses of some Islamic movements during the war in Afghanistan.

It is known that a huge number of mujahidin groups collaborated with influential U.S. quarters during that war when they sought help from the U.S. "satan" against the Russian "Satan".

The result is a civil conflict in that country that has not stopped, even after the Soviets left the country. Thus, the Islamic jihad has maintained its momentum against the forces of blasphemy—in the jihad among other Muslims and against each other. The possible targets for leveling charges of unbelief are huge, particularly if the rivalry is on reaping the fruits of power and attempting to deny others these fruits.

Returning to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, signs indicate that he was a victim more than once. First, he was the victim of his confidence in the Americans and his collaboration with them, something that facilitated his entry and stay in the United States. Then he was the victim of the change in the U.S. position after the objectives sought from his collaboration were exhausted. Then he was the victim of internationalizing the jihad without paying attention to sovereignty, borders, laws, and rights that make up states and international law. Finally, he was the victim of the violent tendencies in his call for a change in his country. This violence does not correct the situation or cure the illness, but opens the doors for seditions and chaos.

Away from the special case of Shaykh 'Umar, we can conclude a general principle—ideological and totalitarian excess, whether it has pan-Arab, Marxist, or religious features, is the shortest road to committing grave mistakes. These excesses eliminate the borders between what is transitory and what is strategic; between the end and the means; between the great objectives and political considerations; and between the rights of human beings to live and easily sacrificing them.

In the end, is this excess a sign of strength or a sign of weakness?

EC Commissioner on European Role in Peace Process

JN0607060593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Vice President of the EC Commission and Commissioner for Development and Cooperation Manuel Marin said the European Community would help give new impetus to the Middle East peace talks.

He told a news conference in Amman last night, at the end of a two-day visit, that the dramatic developments in former Yugoslav republics had not enabled the EC to play an effective role in the Arab-Israeli peace talks. He said the parties had to expedite the peace process and Europe would assist in these efforts. He said an EC delegation was in Moscow discussing how to achieve progress in the peace process. Mr. Marin said the EC was interested in the multilateral Middle East peace negotiations and would help achieve progress which hinged on a breakthrough in the bilaterals.

The EC commissioner spoke after meeting with his majesty the king, the prime minister, and other officials.

Crown Prince Confers With Britain's Hurd in London

JN0207195893 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] In London, his royal highness the crown prince discussed the peace process with the British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd. The crown prince flew on a visit to the United Kingdom yesterday.

His highness and Mr. Hurd discussed Middle East developments and bilateral ties between Jordan and the United Kingdom. The British foreign secretary is to leave for Tokyo to attend the summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations.

'Awn Supporter Mahfuz Detained for Misinformation

NC0707165693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] A security source has stated that Elie Mahfuz, head of the Change Movement [harakat al-taghyir], which supports former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, was remanded into custody yesterday for sending a statement on 3, July 1993 signed by him to the media. In his statement, he claimed that there were still hundreds of people illegally detained by the security agencies. This information is false and Mahfuz is being interrogated to learn the background of the information that defames the government. The source requested that the media not publish reports on the work of the security agencies before verifying reports from the competent agencies.

Al-Hirawi 'Indisposed,' Will Not Receive Visitors

NC0707165493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Presidential Information Office has issued the following statement: President Ilyas al-Hirawi regrets that he will not receive deputies and visitors on Thursday and Friday [8 and 9 July] due to his being indisposed.

Papers Link U.S. Attack With Peace Talks

NC0607163093

[Editorial Report] Two Lebanese newspapers publish editorials from 28 June through 30 June on the recent U.S. attack on the Iraqi intelligence services headquarters.

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic on 28 June on page 1 carries a 1,000-word editorial titled "The 24th Missile" by chief editor Talal Salman on the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad. Salman claims the attack was the U.S. initiative the Arabs were demanding to "salvage" the bilateral negotiations with Israel, adding that these missiles targeted not only Saddam Husayn, but the "tired and miserable negotiators in Washington." The author suggests that "as usual," the targets were Saddam Husayn's victims inside Iraq as well as the Arab and Islamic world. Stating that every U.S. President has his own "whipping boy" to gain popularity, he says the last three presidents chose the Arabs as their "whipping boys." President Reagan, he says, first chose his victims in Latin America before moving his planes to attack Libya and launch a "virulent campaign" against the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Syrians as terrorists. President George Bush, the editorial adds, pounced on the golden opportunity provided by the Iraqi president and "incited the whole world against all the Arabs."

Salman elaborates: "He swept their land, seized their wealth, confiscated their will, and enslaved them from one end of the Arab world to the other. Now it is Bill Clinton who is following in the path of his 'honorable predecessors' and pursuing the same course. He picked the easy, cheap target. The excuse is there and even strengthened by the declared and completely understood U.S. decision. There must be a Saddam Husayn so as to uproot the Arab will and the spirit of Arab resistance."

After reviewing the divisions racking the Arabs and turning this nation into one that has "no weight, position, or value," the editorial argues: "The most dangerous missile is the one that has not reached us. It appears that every Arab must bow, swallow his view, and remove his history with his own tongue so that the 24th U.S. missile will not hit him. The missiles that destroyed the al- Mansur quarter in Baghdad on the pretext of punishing Saddam Husayn's unsuccessful intelligence service were a personal message to every Arab—not only to the rulers and regimes, but to every citizen in the Arab world from east to west. The missiles targeted what is left of steadfastness in the Arab stance. So Clinton preceded their launch by informing his 'full partner' Yitzhaq Rabin of the decision and the objectives so that he could exploit them to stiffen the Israeli stance of rejecting any acceptable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in its current form. Clinton also hastened to inform Turkey, 'the Islamic ally,' of the new raid, as well as the 'two friends' that are indebted to the United States for retrieving their 'freedom,' that is, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, so that all could be assured they are absolutely safe." The editorial then adds that Clinton need worry no more about any decline in his popularity at home, because there is an Arab target to be hit and gain him his popularity. It concludes by saying that the 24th missile is ready to be fired at anyone who objects.

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic on 29 June on pages 1 and 11 carries an approximately 1,000-word article by Deputy Chief Editor Muhammad Mashmushi titled "Clinton, the Psycho-Mathematician," in which he ridicules Clinton's justification for the raid on Baghdad.

Mashmushi writes: "In justifying the missile attack against Iraq, U.S. President William Clinton spoke as someone stating a simple mathematical equation. He said investigations prove the Iraqi intelligence service was responsible for the attempt to assassinate former President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April. Clinton added that he ordered the missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence center in Baghdad in retaliation. Psychologically, Clinton was catering to a U.S. public that grew doubtful of his firmness and ability to make difficult decisions and to a world public that no longer trusts the U.S. 'leading' role in the world after the Cold War."

Turning to the ongoing Middle East peace talks, Mashmushi adds: "Mixing mathematics and psychology provides no clues. Mathematical logic calls for exact, firm answers. The U.S. Administration has been trying to dodge such answers because of its complete bias toward Israel at the expense of international legitimacy and justice. Psychological theories or the illusion of such

theories of the type favored by late President Anwar al-Sadat, a believer in 'breaching the psychology barrier,' hold nothing."

Mashmushi concludes: "Perhaps the young U.S. President Bill Clinton has not fully understood that this 'psychological barrier' remains, despite al-Sadat and the years that have passed since Egypt ended its state of war with Israel and exchanged diplomatic representation with that country."

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic on 29 June 1993 publishes a 600-word article by Sahar Ba'asiri on pages 1 and 12. The article starts by saying that the "most dangerous aspect" of the U.S. missile attack is that it reflects a "U.S. tendency to bypass the Security Council in dealing with international affairs and almost lays down the basis for a precedent that grants the strong party the right to take the law into its own hands whenever it finds it suitable." After stressing that Iraq committed "a mortal sin" when it invaded Kuwait because it provided a golden opportunity for all those who wanted to destroy its strength, it says that the U.S. blow has gone beyond the "rules of punishment" since the United Nations is supposed to have the primary role in the new world order, which was born from a U.S. idea, so therefore punishment must be meted out by the United Nations. It then says that the United States acted as if the mandate given it by the United Nations to liberate Kuwait was an "open-ended one" and many countries were not convinced by this position. It adds that the U.S. action was carried out even before the defendants were found guilty or their trial ended.

Saying that the United States has caused an "imbalance" in the new world order with its attack on Iraq, it adds that "what it did was much more grave than aiming a blow at President Saddam Husayn by destroying the Iraqi intelligence service building. It is not enough for the United States to claim fighting terrorism as an excuse for an action that is no less terrorist than terrorism. It is not enough for President Clinton to prove his determination to justify the killing of civilians, even if he regrets their death. His contacts with some of his allies, including Israel, to inform them of his decision are not enough to justify bypassing the right of other Security Council members to participate in making the decision. It is not enough for him to have his eyes on Iran and to warn it by hitting Iraq. If the United States, the sole superpower, is not the first to apply the rules of the new world order, then won't each party have the right to punish another it believes to be guilty and won't every action be justified, even those that are called terrorist actions?" It concludes by saying that this is what is worrying some other Security Council members about the double standards in dealing with international affairs and that it might be useful for everyone to review the rules of the new order and decide "whether the order will belong and be applied to all equally and fairly and be implemented by the body charged with this task—the Security Council, or whomever it designates—or whether it will be a mandate given to the strong side so as to implement the law as it likes and however it likes, and thus turn the Security Council into a mere tool."

AL-NAHAR also publishes on 30 June a 500-word article by Muhammad Ibrahim on page 11 in which the author says that President Clinton attacked Baghdad with missiles for domestic reasons that have to do with "his performance in the first months of his term in office and therefore can be regarded as the counterattack begun by Clinton following the drop of his popularity to record levels." But he adds that the basis of the attack was the State Department's adoption of the theory of "dual containment" in the Gulf and its attempt to weaken both Iraq and Iran and this means that "the Iraqi president has to forget all about its attempts toward openness with the new U.S. Administration and resort once again to troublemaking to remind the world that Iraq is suffocating under the sanctions." While regarding the Baghdad attack as being separate from the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the situation in Somalia, the writer says that it falls within the "context of the U.S. file of dealing with the countries that are seeking to obtain weapons of mass destruction" and could also be part of "an argument within the Pentagon about the theory of victory-steadfastness-victory in dealing with two regional wars that erupt simultaneously in line with the defense spending cuts of $88 billion in the next five years." He then says that the attack is also part of the other U.S. argument about the U.S. role in UN operations and whether Washington has to put its forces under UN command. He adds that the attack coincided with the conclusion of the human rights conference in Vienna which saw "half a U.S. victory" as represented by separating between the Western human rights and the third and eastern world's characteristics."

Bishop Criticized for Statements on Hizballah

NC0707073693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Excerpt] A Hizballah information source has responded to a radio statement by Zahlah Catholic Bishop Haddad. He said there is no doubt Bishop Haddad was too hasty in his misjudgment, when he said he opposes Hizballah because it still holds citizens and calls for an Islamic state. Bishop Haddad expressed his opposition to fundamentalists and the advocates of a religious state, because, as he said, this shows backwardness.

The source said Bishop Haddad should have sought a dialogue instead of making an unobjective and inaccurate statement. He pointed out that Bishop Haddad expressed his personal conviction and views when he said he opposes Hizballah. We certainly don't agree with him when he said Hizballah still holds citizens and calls for an Islamic state. We reject his argument for more than one reason. Hizballah holds no hostages, unless his grace considers the Agent POW's seized by the Islamic Resistance at Zionist positions to be what he calls citizens. They are traitors who betrayed their homeland and people and deserve punishment according to laws

and religions. Bishop Haddad should remember the Lebanese POW's and detainees in Zionist enemy jails and its South Lebanese Army agents.

The source said Bishop Haddad's claim that Hizballah calls for an Islamic state in Lebanon is an accusation that we want to refute. It is untrue. While Hizballah embraces Islam as an ideology, culture, and policy and urges everyone to read and understand it without prejudging it, Hizballah, realizing Lebanon's peculiarities, has not called for an Islamic state in Lebanon. It calls for a nonsectarian political regime the nature and form of which the people can directly define. [passage omitted]

Clashes Reported in Sujud, Other Areas in South

Hizballah Radio Reports Shelling

NC0407064693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] In the struggling south, Zionist attacks continued against the liberated areas, where a Lebanese young man was martyred and several others were wounded by the shells that landed on peaceful areas yesterday.

The men of the resistance detonated an explosive device under an occupation patrol as it was passing along al-Suwayda' Road in the occupied south yesterday afternoon. It was not possible to learn about the casualties because of the security cordon the occupation troops imposed around the area.

The occupation troops combed the areas surrounding their positions in al-Suwayda' with machine-gun fire. The enemy's artillery in al-Zaffatah bombarded the al-Wadi al-Akhdar area in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The area surrounding the Israeli positions on the Sujud hills was also combed with machine guns.

'Fierce' Clashes Between Resistance, SLA

NC0507170493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Fierce clashes took place between resistance men and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in Sujud sector in the south at about 1800 [1500 GMT]. The towns of al-Luwayzah, Jabal al-Rayhan, and Wadi al-Akhdar have been coming under intermittent artillery shelling from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. According to a report we received from our correspondent a while ago, the shelling is now targeting 'Arab Salim and Jarju' and the triangle linking both towns with Humin and Sarba. Two Israeli helicopters are flying over Iqlim al-Tuffah, releasing heat balloons. In the afternoon, Muhammad Shihadah was injured in Kafr Tabnit by Israeli sniper fire.

Retaliatory Operations Reported

NC0607073893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement yesterday announcing that many of its groups carried out several operations simultaneously at various Zionist and agent positions in 'Alman, al-Shumariyah, al-Suwaydah, Sujud, and Bi'r Kallab. The statement confirmed that the heroic mujahidin destroyed a personnel carrier and a tank in Sujud. They also caused human and material losses in the other locations.

The Zionist enemy admitted that a Zionist soldier was hurt during the clashes with the Islamic Resistance men yesterday. According to Zionist security sources, several katyushas fell early this morning on Galilee in northern Palestine and on the Marj 'Uyun barracks, causing material damage.

The Islamic Resistance operations came in retaliation for the continuing Zionist aggression on the liberated villages, which continued all day yesterday. There was a dangerous criminal escalation yesterday afternoon and in the early evening. The shelling, which was concentrated on the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah, killed two children, a two-year-old and a five-year-old, and wounded six civilians.

The security sources reported that the two children were martyred in the town of 'Arab Salim, while a father and his three children were hurt. Among the three children, two girls, a two-year-old and a five-year-old, were seriously injured when a Zionist shell targeted their home in Jarju'. [passage omitted]

Zionist shelling of the liberated villages was not restricted to Iqlim al-Tuffah, but extended to the townships of al-Nabatiyah al- Fawqa, Yuhmur, al-Hamra', Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, Jibshit, Haris, and Mayfadun, all of which were ferociously shelled. Material damage was great. Zionist helicopters overflew the region, while scores of flares lit up the sky and caused fires.

Our correspondent in the south reported that Zionist shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah caused numerous fires started by internationally banned phosphorous bombs. The worst were in al-Jabal al-Akhdar, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jarju', where large areas of forest were destroyed.

Zionist attacks on the liberated villages started yesterday at noon. At 1400, Zionist occupation forces positioned in 'Ali al- Tahir and al-Dabshah raked the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit, setting fire to a harvester belonging to Muhammad Shihadah. The fire consumed huge areas of wheat fields where the harvester was being used. Civil defense groups put out the fire, sources reporting that approximately five donums of wheat fields caught fire in the raking operations from the occupation positions in al-Dabshah.

This new crime was accompanied by extensive Zionist helicopter flights over al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit. Occupation forces positioned in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah shelled the al-Litani River basin with 81-mm mortars.

[In a related report, Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 6 July adds the following: "This morning, Israeli radio reported that three katyushas were fired at dawn on the western Galilee region. It said one of the rockets fell on a village in the region and caused minor material damage."]

Israelis Said Reinforcing Positions

NC0707062993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Israeli helicopters last night raided Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah and enemy gunboats fired flares over the al-Naqurah coast and al-Mushayrifah.

According to security reports from the south, the occupation forces are building a road linking Marj 'Uyun, al-'Ayshiyah, and al- Wadi al-Akhdar. They are also building a bridge over the al-Litani river, north of the al-Khardali bridge, which it will replace as a link with the new road.

AFP, citing security sources, reported two Katyushas were fired last night at the Galilee settlements. It is not known whether the Katyushas caused damage.

[In a similar report, Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 7 July adds the following: "The occupation forces sent more troops and vehicles to their frontline positions in western al-Biqa' in the past few hours. The reinforcements proceeded via Ibil al-Saqy to the Burghuz triangle before taking up positions in Tumat Niha and the eastern ridges overlooking al-Surayri. Israeli vehicles also took up positions on a hill overlooking the villages near the frontline in western al-Biqa'. ["According to security sources, the occupation forces and the Agent militias are on the alert, fearful of renewed Resistance acts. Israeli tanks backed by Lahdist vehicles combed Kafr Hunah and Sujud supported by helicopters. The same sources say the enemy abducted two citizens from Kafr Hunah."]

Bodies of 'Anti-Israeli Fighters' Found

NC0707124693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] A security source in Marj 'Uyun today said the Israeli army found the bodies of two anti-Israeli fighters near Sujud, where clashes took place between Hizballah elements and the Israeli army.

Iranians Among 16 Casualties in Rocket Explosion

NC0607133093 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, July 6 (AFP)—Eight Iranians were among 16 casualties when a rocket exploded by accident at a Hizballah position in eastern Lebanon, security sources said Tuesday.

They said three Iranians were killed and five wounded when a B-7 anti-tank rocket exploded last Saturday, triggering a fire in a hilltop post overlooking Ba'labakk in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley.

Syrian military sources said at the time that four guerrillas of the pro-Iranian Hizballah were killed and four wounded.

Hundreds of Iranian Revolutionary Guard militiamen were deployed in the Ba'labakk region when the Israeli army invaded Lebanon in June 1982.

Most have since left Lebanon but a unit stayed behind to back the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist movement Hizballah, which carries out regular attacks on Israeli forces in south Lebanon.

Clinton Accused of Breaking Promises Over Peace Talks

PM0707154693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jul 93 p2

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Syria: With U.S. Approval, Israel Is Above the Law and the Rules"]

[Excerpt] Syria has strongly criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Paris statements in which he insisted that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and concentrated on Israeli claims about terrorism. It said that with such statements Rabin only fuels the fire.

Responsible Syrian sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Rabin's claims about Islamic fundamentalism, using it as a pretext to continue his terrorism, constitute a serious trend and pave the way for the continuation of his policy which rejects the basis for a just and lasting peace, threatens utter failure for the peace process, and exacerbates the already tense situation in the region, particularly as the failure of the 10th round of negotiations has created a dangerous and critical situation for the peace process.

The sources accused President Clinton of breaking his promises and changing the positions he had taken regarding intercession in the peace process and guaranteeing security arrangements.

They said that the U.S. attack on Iraqi territory was carried out to divert attention from the failure of the 10th round and the failure of the United States to stand up to Israel and its practices.

That, they said, indicates that Israel is above the law and the rules with U.S. approval and that it can do what others have no right to do.

The sources added that the United States must realize that it cannot call for more rounds of peace negotiations without a radical change in its approach and its proposals, that it should go back to the beginning of the peace process and the promises it made through international legitimacy, and that no proposals it makes through its representative would make any difference to the Arab concept of the peace process.

They asked: What is the point of the United States making new promises when it failed to fulfill its old promises even to a minimum degree? The United States had promised to play the role of effective and impartial partner and Clinton had promised to intercede personally to boost the negotiations but then he abandoned that and Washington took Israel's side, as is evident in the U.S. document on Palestinian autonomy for the transitional period which was rejected by the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Rabin's Statements, Peace Process

JN0307155593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In press statements made during his visits to the Netherlands and France, the Israeli prime minister said that the issue of Jerusalem is nonnegotiable—both at present and in the future, and that the Palestinians' insistence on raising this issue will inevitably terminate the negotiations. Rabin added that he is not concerned at all with the fate of 150,000 Palestinians residing in Arab Jerusalem, and that they can obtain Israeli citizenship, which they reject.

Regarding the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, Rabin said he is ready to make a territorial concession but not a total withdrawal from these heights. In all his statements, Rabin stressed Israel's security, and linked this alleged security to the keeping of significant portions of the occupied Arab territories. He did not fail to play the tune of terrorism which, he said, threatens the world, in order to justify the atrocities and mass crimes that the Israeli forces are committing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the daily shelling of southern Lebanese villages and townships.

We do not believe that Rabin is making haphazard statements. This is proved by the fact that the Washington talks have been moving in a vicious circle since he assumed power in Israel. Despite their efforts and proposals, the Arab delegations participating in the peace talks have not received any favorable response. Moreover, the closed halls remained a venue for Israeli proposals that are extremely far from both the substance and objectives of the peace process.

The basis of the U.S. initiative leading to the Madrid conference was the exchange of land for peace. Israel, however, adheres to the occupation of lands that extend from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As for Jerusalem, the Israeli negotiators regard its fate as one that has already been decided. This is proven by the fact that the West Bank and Gaza residents are banned from entering Jerusalem.

The question is: How long will the Israeli intransigence continue? There have been 10 complete rounds of talks held throughout 20 months, yielding no results and closed horizons. The Israelis want Arab territories before peace. They also regard peace as something that will entrench their forced occupation of lands. When the Israelis directly offered the Palestinians some administrative jobs in the Gaza Strip first, as well as some limited powers, they only sought to impose faits accomplis on the Palestinian side. This means the final usurpation of Jerusalem and the exclusion of the Israeli settlements—to which two-thirds of the West Bank area was annexed—from the powers of the proposed self-rule.

Meanwhile, the building of Israeli settlements is accelerating. Rabin also took immense funds from the U.S. loan guarantees in order to build 11,000 apartments, housing approximately 50,000 new settlers in the West Bank.

It is obvious that the Arabs' genuine interest in a just, comprehensive, and firm Middle East peace is not receiving any response from the Israelis, who are more concerned with expansion and settlement building on the pretext of security. Moreover, the Israeli Government has pursued, on the ground, a policy that totally conflicts with the spirit and terms of reference of the peace process. Matters were not confined to sealing off the occupied territories, the mass killing of Arab citizens, and the flagrant violations of human rights—Israel took practical measures designed to tighten its control of the occupied territories, expand the settlement activities there, fragment the regional integrity of these territories, and isolate the cities and townships from one another and encircle them with a cordon of settlements.

All this is taking place under the sight of the United States, which remains idle. In view of the consistent Israeli attitudes designed to undermine the terms of reference of the Washington talks, it is natural for the Arabs to assess the overall peace process and its future horizons. Had the matter concerned negotiations with Israel alone, without international patronage and specific commitments, the Arabs would not have wasted time and effort. This is because throughout 50 years, the Arabs have experienced the tricks of Zionism and its real expansionist and aggressive schemes.

The matter, however, concerns clear U.S. pledges and commitments, led by the concept of the exchange of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 as well as opposition to the Israeli settlements policy and the inclusion of all occupied Arab territories in the desired peace settlement.

The Arabs participated in the Washington talks in order to regain all their territories; namely, the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. The 10th round has dashed all hopes for a change in the intransigent and hostile Israeli position. Eyes are now focused on Washington, wondering about the U.S. Administration's plans, hoping for a translation of its pledges into deeds forcing Israel to abide by the principles of right, justice, and international law before Israel deals a mortal blow to the peace process.

Paper Says Israeli Arms Threaten Regional Peace

JN0507162993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH comments on Israel's continued acquisition of weapons, saying: It is not strange that Israel should pursue its military programs and stockpile more advanced weapons in its arsenal. Moreover, it is not strange at all that Israel should adopt a two-faced policy by shedding crocodile tears over peace, while, from time to time, it deliberately reveals part of its military program to the point that one of its newspapers yesterday admitted that such armament is taking place as if war were at hand.

AL-BA'TH notes that Syria is aware of the Israeli danger that threatens the Arab existence, land, and fate. The paper says that Syria adopted a responsible pan-Arab policy toward defending the nation's interests, maintaining Arab rights, and seeking to reinforce pan-Arab solidarity capable of confronting challenges and ongoing dangers.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel's armory of advanced weapons refutes all its claims about peace. Hence, this should add to its responsibility for the continuing explosive situation in the region.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The international community has the right to question Israeli armaments in light of the peace negotiations. It also has the right to expedite an initiative to prevent Israel from achieving its military programs because such achievements would deal a blow to the peace process and the interests of the international community, which is aspiring to security and stability in the region.

Afghanistan

Gen. Dostam Visits Kabul in Bid To Establish Cease-Fire

Meets With Rabbani

LD0307180193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 93

[All names as heard]

[Text] Esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning with esteemed General Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, in the Golkhana presidency palace. Talks were conducted on some issues. Esteemed Gen. Abdorrashid Dostam arrived this morning in Kabul. He was received at Kabul airport by a number of civil and military personalities.

A BIA correspondent has reported that Ata Mohammad, deputy head of the Jamiat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] branch in Balkh Province; Jawzjan Governor Dr. Mohammad Karim Zare; Fariab Governor Abdorrahman Rahmani; Mawlawi Mohammad Esmail Talebzada; Lieutenant General Abdol Momen; Lt. Gen. Helaloddin; Lt. Gen. Gholam Mostafa; Lt. Gen. Ashor Mohammad; Hafizollah Serat Taloqani; Mawlawi Abdol Baqi; Mawlawi Khalif Abdol Aziz Jalali; Qazi Nurollah Fedawi; Major General Mohammad Alem Razm; Qazi Mohammad Yassin; Haji Abdorrahim Tsargand; and a number of other important personalities of the country are accompanying esteemed Gen. Abdol Rashid Dostam on this trip.

Talks With Mas'ud

BK0507100493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 5 Jul 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Jul 5 (AFP)—Afghanistan's former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud met with former pro-communist militia warlord General Abdol Rashid Dostam for private talks in the presidential palace here Monday [5 July].

"We are not going to discuss any kind of alliance but the future of Afghanistan, which is a more vital question," Mas'ud told AFP, while waiting for Dostam.

Mas'ud said he was not meeting Dostam as Defence Minister or head of his own Shura-e Nazar faction, "but as a simple person" only.

The visit of Dostam, a four-star General of the Army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan who flew into Kabul in a Soviet-made jet fighter Saturday from his northern Afghanistan headquarters in Mazar-e Sharif, was officially projected in a low-key way.

"It's an ordinary thing for a general to visit the capital and pay his respects to the president," a senior government spokesman noted.

However the fact that Mas'ud and Dostam between them represent a potent fighting force in Afghanistan, and that they met in the private living quarters of the presidential palace while President Borhanoddin Rabbani is in Turkey for a regional economics summit, focused attention here on the talks.

Abdur Rahman Farzam, a spokesman for Dostam's politico-military front, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, known locally as "Junbish", said Dostam was in Kabul in the role of a peace-maker.

"General Dostam and Junbish are trying to mediate between the conflicting sides," Farzam said.

He was referring to the fragile seven-week long ceasefire in Kabul, which is violated on a daily basis with rockets and artillary fire exchanges between the various factions, leaving high civilian casualities.

Mas'ud said he hoped the ceasefire in Kabul would be permanent, and that he was doing his best to achieve this goal. "But the ceasefire does not depend only on us, but also on the other side," he added.

"We did not start any fights in the past and we will not start any in the future," the former defence minister said.

Regarding his long-time rival, Golboddin Hekmatyar, now Afghanistan's prime minister, Mas'ud said he was ready to meet him and had no objections to cooperating with him—on the one condition that all provisions of the Jalalabad agreement were fully implemented.

Rival mojahedin leaders met in the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad last June where they thrashed out an agreement relating to the ceasefire and approval of Hekmatyar's cabinet.

They also agreed to the mutual surrender of all heavy weapons, the most dangerous being the 20-kilometre (12 mile) range "Sakkar"- type missile which can rip through the walls of a house.

Asked whether his Shura-e Nazar faction was prepared to surrender its share of heavy weapons, Mas'ud replied: "One hundred percent".

Mazari Denies Dostam Pressure

BK0607101293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 6 Jul 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Jul 6 (AFP)—The leader of the main Shiite Muslim faction minority in Kabul, Abdol Ali Mazari, on Tuesday [6 July] affirmed his military alliance to Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Mazari told AFP that contrary to rumours his Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] faction was not under pressure from General Abdol Rashid Dostam, a Wahdat supporter, to cut ties with Hekmatyar. Dostam, a former pro-communist Uzbek militia commander from northern Afghanistan, who for ethnic reasons has a special relationship with the Hazara minority Wahdat, arrived in Kabul Saturday for a visit officially described as peace-making.

"Dostam is not going to ask us to break our alliance with Hekmatyar—and in any case we would not accept such a request," Mazari said firmly.

"On the contrary, Dostam is going to ask us to strengthen out alliance with Hekmatyar," added Mazari.

Mazari suggested he also was playing the role of mediator, saying there was "a strong probability" that Dostam and Hekmatyar would meet at the Wahdat Kabul headquarters for talks sometime this week.

The Wahdat leader, looking relaxed as he fingered his prayer beads, said he was not afraid of Dostam joining forces with Hekmatyar's arch-roval Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the ex-Defence Minister, for a new round of fighting.

"Dostam told us he would be neutral and not support any side in future fighting," Mazari said, adding that all sides were trying to reconcile their differences and establish a unified government.

"Fighting a war is not the best way to solve the problems of Afghanistan. We have tried that and got nowhere," said Mazari. "Our hope is to make all sides convinced that the best way to achieve peace is to sit and talk together."

Rumors surrounded Dostam's arrival, his first visit to Kabul since a combined Uzbek-mojahedin force overthrew the Moscow-backed Afghan communist regime in April 1992.

Sources in Dostam's politico-military front, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, known here as "Junbish", have said the time has come for Wahdat to either cut loose from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction and remain neutral—or face the possible consequences.

It had been suggested that Dostam and Mas'ud had reached an agreement for military cooperation in future fighting against Hekmatyar, a conflict in which Wahdat would be caught in the middle.

All mojahedin factions have agreed in principle to surrender their heavy weapons, but none have so far done so and ceasefire violations occur daily in the Afghan capital.

There were heavy clashes Monday night between Wahdat and Defence Ministry forces, who exchanged and rocket and artillery fire.

In Wahdat-controlled south Kabul enclaves 17 civilians were admitted to the Karte Se Hospital, and in Defence Ministry-controlled north of Kabul eight were admitted to the Jamhuriat hospital, doctors reported.

Talks Continue Amid Shelling

BK0707101493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, July 7 (AFP)—Heavy gunfire broke the Kabul calm Wednesday [7 June] morning, but did not disrupt high-level talks, as defence ministry troops reportedly fired on guerrillas of a Shiite Muslim faction. High-level leadership talks were taking place in the capital at the time.

Two passengers in a bus were wounded by mortar fire at a southwest Kabul frontline roundabout, in shelling that lasted more than one hour, said Shiite faction Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] guerrillas based near there.

"We got strict orders not to retaliate with heavy weapons, to stay in our bunkers and to be patient," said Wahdat commander Nawabi.

"You can feel the barrels of our weapons, and you can see they are cold, which means we have not used them," Nawabi said.

He said all the firing was coming from central city mountain tops manned by troops of the Shura-e Nazar faction loyal to the former defence minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud.

"Shura-e Nazar is trying to sabotage the talks between our leaders," the commander said.

Wahdat leader Abdol Ali Mazari was hosting a meeting with former pro-communist militia warlord General Abdol Rashid Dostam at a heavily guarded private residence near Wahdat's west Kabul headquarters when the shelling took place. Dostam, on leaving the four-hour meeting with Mazari, did not express any surprise about the shelling, but admitted it could have been deliberately staged in an attempt to intimidate those gathered for the talks.

"There may exist some dirty hands which are trying to sabotage our meeting," said Dostam.

The four-star general, who heads his own politico-military front called the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan (Junbish), told journalists he had not come to Kabul to discuss military alliances but to try to establish a permanent ceasefire in the war-ravaged Afghan capital.

Dostam remarked that all previous attempts at achieving peace in Afghanistan were sponsored by foreigners, and for this reason they were doomed to failure.

"This time we Afghans will take care of our problems and find our own solutions," Dostam announced.

He said his discussions with Mazari about stopping the perpetual clashes were fruitful, and they had reached some agreement on the exchange of prisoners-of-war between Wahdat and Shura-e Nazar.

Dostam met a representative of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar Tuesday, and held talks for two hours, in which both parties expressed their agreement for Dostam's face-to-face meeting with Hekmatyar in the near future.

"I am working on gathering all the leaders—Mas'ud, Mazari, Hekmatyar and (President Borhanoddin) Rabbani—together for a joint conference," Dostam told the large gathering of Wahdat and Junbish commanders and officials who crowded the meeting-place.

Despite the formation of Hekmatyar's cabinet there is no true government in Kabul yet as power is polarised between the rival alliances of Mas'ud and Dostam on one hand and Hekmatyar and Mazari on the other.

Cabinet Discusses Security, Economic Issues 5 Jul

LD0507191793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jul 93

[All names and titles as heard

[Text] Under the chairmanship of esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the cabinet held a session this morning. It made appropriate decisions on important security and economic issues, and especially on administrative organization issues and the budget for 1372 [year starting 21 March 1993].

The prime minister's press office reported that the session opened with a brief speech by the esteemed Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The meeting was attended by esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gilani, minister of borders; esteemed Hayatollah Balaghi, minister of commerce; esteemed Mawlawi Jalillolah Mawlawi Zada, minister of education; esteemed Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid, minister of planning; esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad, minister of communication; esteemed Mohammad Amin Fatemi, minister of public health; esteemed Engineer Faiz Mohammad, minister of construction; esteemed Mohammad Faruq Azam, minister of refugee affairs; esteemed Professor Seyyed Omar Monib, minister of higher education; esteemed Lieutenant General Seyyed Husain Anwari, minister of labor and social affairs; esteemed Mawlawi Arsala Rahmani, minister of guidance and endowment; esteemed Mawlawi Abdorrahim Ozma, deputy minister of justice; esteemed Wala Jan Wasiq, deputy minister of information and culture; esteemed Abdol Karim Saddam, deputy minister of city and house construction; esteemed Khalil Zohad, acting minister of transport; esteemed Hamed Karzai, deputy foreign minister; esteemed Engineer Mohammad Gholam Rahimi, deputy minister of food and light industries; esteemed Ziaoddin Zia, deputy minister of commerce; esteemed Shah Mahmud, deputy minister of finance; and esteemed Dr. Abobakr, deputy minister of husbandry in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The meeting discussed in detail the normal development budget of Afghanistan for 1371 [starting 21 March 1992] and 1372 [starting 21 March 1993]. As a result, it was decided that taking into account the views expressed at today's meeting, the prime minister and the esteemed ministers of finance, planning, and foreign affairs will start work from 6 July, and make a final decision in this respect.

Today's session also discussed the security situation across the country and especially in Kabul city. The cabinet's four-member panel was assigned to take action on the evacuation of the premiership's building and related institutions, the movement of weapons, the evacuation of military units from the city, the opening up of the Gozargah passage and the bringing into operation of other roads in Kabul city, the ensuring of the cease-fire, the stationing of a buffer force, and the continuing work of the commissions of the Defense and Interior Ministries (?concerning the cease-fire).

Decisions were also made on the transportation of food and fuel from Pakistan.

The cabinet meeting also discussed the incorrect propaganda broadcast by radio and television. The cabinet condemned this and took appropriate measures.

The prime minister's press office instructed members of the commissions of the defense and interior ministries and the council of commanders to come to the prime minister's headquarters at 0800 on Tuesday, 6 July for an extraordinary meeting.

Bangladesh

Tension Rises on Border With Burma After Talks Fail

BK0607142093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, July 6 (AFP)—Fresh tension gripped the frontier region of Bangladesh and Burma after Monday's [5 July] abortive border talks over the arrest of an alleged Burmese drug kingpin, officials here said Tuesday.

The six-hour flag meeting between local border commanders at the Burmese frontier town of Maungdow over last week's arrest of Jahir Ahmed by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) border guards ended "without any decision," BDR battalion commander Nazmul Islam told reporters on his return.

"The talks failed due to the intransigent attitude" of the Burmese side which was led by Min Thu, deputy director of Burma's Immigration Headquarters, said Islam, who

headed Bangladeshi side at the meeting. He added that both sides failed to agree on a date for another meeting.

Ahmed, accused by Bangladesh of leading a Burmese drug smuggling group, was caught by BDR Thursday on the frontier Naaf river while returning by boat to Burma, local officials said. He was later handed over to police who said they were questioning him for unauthorised entry to Bangladesh.

Press reports had earlier said Burmese frontier officials had protested the Ahmed's arrest and demanded that Bangladesh allow him to return to Burma.

The reports quoted local officials as saying they suspected he was a Burmese spy involved in the exodus of tens of thousands of Muslim refugees, known as Rohingyas, who fled to Bangladesh two years ago alleging persecution by Rangoon troops.

Bangladeshi officials at Monday's Maungdaw meeting reportedly refused to accept the Burmese demand for Ahmed's release, saying he would be brought to justice under local laws as he was arrested on Bangladesh territory.

The row prompted Burma to unilaterally stop issuing transit passes to residents of both sides of the 280 kilometer (176 mile) long border for traditional day-long visits to each other's border towns. The two neighbours' relations have been strained since the influx of the 280,000 Burmese Rohingya refugees.

Burmese embassy officials in Dhaka were unavailable for comment on Monday's border talks, but refugee officials here feared the abortive talks might affect the on-going repatriation of the refugees under a 1992 Dhaka-Rangoon agreement.

Since repatriation began late last year, some 28,117 of the refugees sheltered in 20 frontier camps in Bangladesh had returned in 62 groups mostly under the supervision of local representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). However the latest group of 453 refugees of 111 families were repatriated Tuesday as scheduled, officials said.

Paper Views U.S Missile Strike on Baghdad

BK0407103693 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jun 93 p 5

[Editorial: "Monday's Missile Attack On Baghdad"]

[Text] U.S. sense of outrage over the alleged plot by the Iraqi Intelligence to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush last April in Kuwait found expression in the predawn missile attack Monday [as published] on the Intelligence Headquarters site in Baghdad. Six civilians are reported to have been killed and several injured and some houses (civilian) destroyed. The attack was a retaliatory one.

World reaction has been divided between countries clearly supporting U.S. action and those making cautious comments, and others, especially in the Islamic bloc, condemning it right away mainly on the grounds that it was unilateral (independent of the UN Security Council's approval), pointing out the double standard followed in dealing with terrorists, with the Serbs in ex-Yugoslavia in mind.

Apart from it, there is the fact that the 14 people, most of them Iraqis, involved in the alleged assassination plot are now facing trial in a Kuwait court and if convicted will be given the punishment they deserve under the country's law. An attack by missiles, therefore, may plausibly be considered a step too many to punish the offender. If the local law could deal adequately with crimes such as this, why resort to measures that may raise rather embarrassing international questions? Besides, a missile attack runs the risk of killing and injuring civilians, and Monday's attack has done so.

Despite the regrets expressed by Mr. Clinton, the feeling either among Iraqi civilians and elsewhere in the region and in the world, including non-Muslim parts of it, has understandably been one of pain and protest. This, many feel, was very much avoidable, especially by a superpower like America whose staunch stance on human rights and international justice has been its historic strong point—and a much-honoured principle and tradition. This looking like being ever breached by it [as published] may be an unnecessary cause of disenchantment for many the world over. Unilaterality of the punitive action taken, as in the present case, may only accentuate this sense of disappointment.

Diplomatically, especially where world leadership is concerned, one great need is often speaking daggers, but using none unless as a last resort. Ever since the Gulf War, Iraq and America have regarded each other as enemies. And considering the fact that the Middle East stays still far from stable and regional tension far from eased, old and continuing conflicts are best treated politically and peacefully, without creating fresh grounds for exacerbation of relations, regionally or internationally. The festering America-Iraq issue is certainly one of them.

India

Russian Cryogenic Engine Deal Said 'Very Much On'

BK0707034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The India-Russian deal on the supply of cryogenic rocket engines and transfer of technology is very much on. This was stated by a senior Indian diplomat in Moscow yesterday. He said the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], Dr. U.R. Rao, is having talks with representatives of the Russian enterprises involved in the contract. The official said at none of the several meetings so far there was any indication that Russia wants to scrap the deal. He said

the talks are proceeding in a friendly atmosphere. Both sides reviewed the implementation of the contract. Dr. Rao also met the Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Alkesandr Shokhin, and the foreign economic relations minister, Mr. Sergey Glazyev.

Spokesman Welcomes U.S. Decision on Nuclear Testing

BK0607153893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi has welcomed President Clinton's recent announcement extending the U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing up to the 30th of September next year and for giving priority to start negotiations for a multilateral comprehensive test ban treaty. In a statement today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said a comprehensive test ban treaty will go a long way in arresting the nuclear arms race and bringing to an end the development of more lethal warheads. He expressed the hope that all nuclear states will respond positively to President Clinton's announcement for taking up multilateral negotiations in a purposeful manner. The spokesman underlined that India has consistently called for cessation of nuclear weapons testing and a discontinuance of production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons since 1954 with a view to giving a positive impetus for nuclear disarmament.

Kashmir Governor Reiterates Resolve To Hold Elections

BK0707075793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has reiterated his administration's firm resolve to hold elections in the state as early as possible. Addressing the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the electronic media last evening, the governor assured the people that whichever party comes in power will be allowed to function constitutionally for its full term. Without announcing the exact dates for the polls, Gen. Rao invited the militants to participate in the election process. He said they are free to join any of the all political parties or form a new party if they so wish. He advised the militants to shun violence and stop disrupting the political process at the behest of Pakistan. He said he has asked the security forces to put down militancy at the earliest so that the people could function without any fear or favor.

Gen. Rao asked Pakistan to keep its hands off Kashmir as the state's accession with India was voluntary and irrevocable. Rejecting the demand of the militants for a tripartite talks between India, Pakistan, and representatives of Kashmir to solve the Kashmir issue, Mr. Rao said the only problem that exists between India and Pakistan is the future of the territory of Kashmir in the wrongful possession of Pakistan. He said India is ready to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully as per the Simla agreement.

Islamic 'Mercenaries' Becoming More Active in Kashmir

BK0407042493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0149 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi, July 4 (AFP)—Hardened mercenaries from Islamic countries are increasingly plunging into the Muslim campaign for secession in Kashmir, giving it a dangerous and bloodier twist, police and Kashmiri sources say.

The foreign guerrillas have graduated from being "advisors" to the militant groups to staging spectacular attacks on Indian security forces in the Kashmir valley and neighbouring Doda region, they say.

The activities of the "Afghans," as they are known regardless of nationality, is causing alarm.

"Their steadily increasing numbers is definitely adding to an already complex scenario," Prakash Singh, director general of the federal paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF), said in an interview here.

"We have evidence about the presence of nationals from several countries, including the Middle East," said Singh, whose men form the main fighting arm of the Indian government against the thousands of Moslem militants in Kashmir.

"We are quite capable of dealing with them," the BSF chief said. "They are well equipped no doubt but we do not suffer by comparison in terms of firepower or tactics."

"The only problem is we are short of intelligence about their locations, hideouts," he added.

Singh's comments came after 28 of his men and four Kashmiri policemen waged a gruelling 60-hour battle with some 150 Afghan and Sudanese fighters in a hill in Doda which ended on June 28.

The mercenaries were reportedly equipped with sophisticated weapons and repeatedly urged the BSF troops to surrender during the fighting which ended with the deaths of 10 BSF personnel and at least three attackers.

The rebels dragged away the bodies of their dead colleagues.

"We suffered casualties, but the fact that a small group of BSF held at bay not less than 150 well-trained men for almost three days is to be noted," Singh said.

"Logistically, my men were at a disadvantage," he added. "Yet they could not overrun our positions."

Singh said the number of mercenaries, including veterans of the Afghan war, in which New Delhi sided with Soviet-installed regimes, has been steadily increasing since 1992. "We do not know their exact number, but it should be at least 250."

Kashmiri sources said the mercenaries included mainly Afghans and Sudanese as well as a sprinkling of Bahrainis and Pakistanis.

"Some people say they total a few hundred," one source here said, adding the mercenaries were mostly assisting the Hizbul Mojahedin, the dominant rebel group in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

"Earlier they used to act only as advisors to the local groups," the source said. "But now they have taken the offensive, ambushing and attacking Indian security forces."

Police and rebel sources say the mercenaries have sneeked into Kashmir from Pakistan, which extends vocal support to the four-year-old Moslem campaign for independence. Earlier, they had fought against the Afghan regime.

"They are in Kashmir because they believe in the concept of one Islamic nation and think that Kashmir deserves to secede," added a Muslim source in the Kashmir valley.

Indian officials say half-a-dozen foreigners have so far been killed or captured in Kashmir, and that the others are entrenched in the remote mountains of Doda region.

Last year, an Indian video network interviewed a Sudanese fighter in Kashmir. Indian officials say the "Afghans" are battle-hardened and take on the security forces in large numbers from well-prepared positions.

A Hindu opposition leader in Kashmir said the entry of "Afghans" had given a new dimension to the Kashmir conflict.

"The (local) militants never used to take great risks," Chaman Lal Gupta said in a telephone interview. "But these people (Afghans) have demoralised our security forces. That they have not succeeded is another matter."

Gupta, president of the Kashmir chapter of the Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party), put their number at 3,000 and quoted a BSF trooper wounded last week as saying: "They were all Afghans. Real six footers."

Iran

Cooperation Protocol Signed with PRC

LD0607165593 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] July 6, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China on Tuesday [6 July] signed a protocol for mutual cooperation in economic, technical and scientific fields.

Visiting Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Li Lanqing and Iran's Vice President Hamid Mirzadeh termed the protocol inked at the end of the 7th Tehran-Beijing joint economic commission meet here as a "new horizon" in expansion of bilateral political and economic ties.

In remarks before leaving Tehran at the end of a 4-day visit, the Chinese official said the agreements reached between the two countries on subway, cement and power plant would soon be implemented.

He expressed hope that by increasing the capacity of her oil refineries, China could refine more Iranian crude oil in the future.

Mirzadeh said the two countries were to make joint investment in setting up an oil refinery in China to refine crude oil for the Islamic Republic.

Referring to an agreement concluded by Iran and China for cooperation in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Mirzadeh made it clear that such cooperation would be carried out under supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

China has agreed to grant Iran a $150 million and $120 million in credit for construction of subway and a cement factory, Mirzadeh said.

The Iranian official said that Iran and China would also cooperate in such fields as mine exploration, geology, fisheries, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, electronics, steel, ferrochrome and ferrozinc.

Building small hydroelectric power plants and cooperation in communication and satellite, agricultural and shipping fields are among other agreements reached between Tehran and Beijing, he said.

He said Chinese oil companies were to increase their oil imports from Iran to balance Tehran-Beijing trade exchanges.

Agreements With India on Construction, Gas Projects

LD0607150393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Iran and India agreed today to establish a study group to investigate the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to India. The oil ministers of the two countries, Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Satish Sharma, also reached an agreement on the annual export of over 3 million tonnes of Iranian oil to India and cooperation in research and production of oil in the continental shelf.

At the meeting the Indian oil minister also announced his country's readiness for joint investment in the construction of a chemical fertilizer complex on Qeshm Island as well as the construction of equipment for the petrochemical industry.

Official Comments on Repatriation of Afghan Refugees

LD0407170493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Up to now over 600,000 Afghans resident in Iran have returned to their country, the director in charge of the affairs of aliens and foreign refugees announced this afternoon. He added: Out of this number 100,000 have been given assistance in cash and in kind by the UN High Commission for Refugees and have left the country by the Dogharun border crossing point [in Khorasan Province].

He said: There are currently 700,000 Afghans living in our country who do not have identity cards but who, after identification, will be issued with temporary identity papers and will be returned to their countries, in coordination with the United Nations. He emphasized in this connection: Those Afghans who do not have identity papers and who live in our country may, as from 23 July, present themselves in person at the aliens offices in provincial governorates and governor-generalships throughout the country for up to one month and obtain their temporary identification papers.

He went on to say in connection with the compulsory return of these Afghans to their country by Iran: The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the course of the past 14 years has been based on the principle of the voluntary return of refugees and those granted political asylum. Such propaganda and claims are being made precisely by those who, during the past 14 years, have not paid the slightest attention to the situation of Afghan refugees.

Foreign Ministry Criticized Over Hostages in Lebanon

LD0407165193 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—The fifth of July marks the eleventh year in captivity of the Iranian hostages in Lebanon. Exactly 4017 days ago, three Iranian diplomats Ahmad Motavasellian, Mohsen Musavi, Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam, and IRNA photographer Kazem Akhavan Allaf, taken captives on the road to Beirut by the Phalangist forces.

Fifth of July is the beginning of the least known, and as yet unended saga of their captivity at the hands of the brutal Phalangist forces. While the Western hostages have returned to their families, the Iranian hostages are still in captivity. Their fate is wrapped in a cloud of mystery, their families have no news from them. While the Western press kept a vigil on the Western hostages and while their return home made headlines in the Western media, they are strangely mute on these least known hostages of the world.

In an appeal issued today and signed by the families of the four hostages, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was criticized for its lack of initiative regarding the fate of the hostages.

"After eleven years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should break the silence regarding the fate of these four individuals. We have waited for years for their return," the statement read, "their release has remained a fantastic dream, a dream which has yet to be realized."

"Do brothers (in charge of the Foreign Ministry) have any convincing response with respect to their silence on the matter?" the statement asked.

"Despite the common wisdom, the case of the hostages in Lebanon was not closed with the release of the Western hostages. The emphasis on the unilateral release of the Western hostages was tantamount to ignoring the rights of all the hostages," it asserted.

"Now that we have lost all the chances, we still have the chance to rectify the mistakes. There is still time to do what is morally right," the appeal concluded.

UN Mission Issues Statement

LD0607175493 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 6, IRNA—The Iranian mission to the United Nations in a statement issued here Tuesday [6 July] appealed to all international organizations to find out the fate of four Iranians taken captive in Iran [as received] since 1983.

The statement, holding the captors of Iranian hostages responsible for all consequences of their act, called for their release.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Beirut Mohsen Musavi along with Ahmad Motavasselian and Mohammad-Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam, both staffers of Iran's Embassy, Kazem Akhavan, a photojournalist with the Islamic Republic news agency and a local driver were captured by Phalangist force 40 kms north of Beirut on July 5, 1983.

"The families of the hostages in Lebanon and the entire Iranian nation vividly remember their brave sons and are impatiently awaiting their release and safe return home," the statement said.

Need Seen for Islam To Have Security Council Presence

NC0607075293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Commentary prepared by the News Commentaries Group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] Japan will issue a statement today officially announcing its readiness to accept permanent UN Security Council membership. This follows a request by UN

Secretary General Butros-Ghali on increasing the number of UN Security Council permanent members.

The increase is among the topics that have become more important following developments and the upsetting of the power poles. The UN secretary general apparently wants to create the conditions for more countries that enjoy a special position in their regions to have a presence. The permanent members, who enjoy the right of veto, do not seem to oppose this idea too much, especially the United States, which has often welcomed the idea of increasing the number of permanent Security Council members.

The question is: What criteria should be used to choose the new permanent members? Comments from various sources do not indicate that views are the same. But every applicant may have special reasons for feeling it meets the necessary conditions for Security Council membership.

One of the criteria to be mooted and that is acceptable to an extent is the regional position of countries, meaning that since the objective is the redistribution of world power in the post-Cold War era, then every large regional country can be a candidate for Security Council membership based on the vastness of its territory and population, its industrial-technological progress, or any other agreed criteria.

Japan is among the countries that claim to meet these conditions and this is why it announced that in view of the necessary opportunities, it is ready to undertake the responsibility of its Security Council duties as best it can.

If we want to get theoretical, the truth is that the world is officially in chaos. There is neither an international government and sufficient mutual dependence nor a just distribution of power among countries. Under these conditions, there are three alternatives to put this chaotic situation in order or to prevent more chaos and disorder: the traditional balance of power; reliance on nuclear weaponry as a deterrent; and rule by a central coalition.

The first two alternatives have proven their ineffectiveness in recent years. But the third can be a source of hope for reestablishing international law and order, an example of which is seen in the form of the Security Council.

If the Security Council was once a reflection of the superpowers and their allies, today's Council should reflect the new post-Cold War situation. Although it cannot be said into which category of the systems propounded by theoreticians the international system falls, it is certain it has emerged from bipolarity and that new powers have arisen.

System analysts believe the more the major players in this international system, the easier it will be to establish peace and security. Japan, which is a major economic giant, can become a big player in the international system.

There are two points to be noted by those who support the theory of increasing the Security Council's permanent members. The first is that if the objective is a just distribution of world power, why shouldn't Islam be present in the Security Council? Clearly, without the participation of Islam, which is one of the most influential areas in world affairs, the distribution of balanced power will not be as expected. The second point is that if the right of veto is granted only to the five permanent Security Council members, expanding the Security Council and including several other countries as members will have no major effect on international decision-making.

ECO's Shortcomings, Room for Cooperation Viewed

NC0707072393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Commentary prepared by the News Commentaries Group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Excerpts] The heads of the 10 ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member countries are meeting in Istanbul to delineate the organization's long-term strategy and set out the basis for their regional cooperation in the coming decades. [passage omitted]

The ECO, which started its activities under its new name seven years ago, is a young organization. But if we also consider it had a predecessor, the organization has a 29-year record.

Despite the ECO's emphasis on advancing its programs and despite its long record in the region, it does not have a very bright record in implementing its programs. Among the massive list of approved joint industrial ventures, only three have been implemented. And despite members' constant emphasis on the need to expand communications, ECO transit routes are not complete.

As for removing commercial obstacles, although the need for preferential tariffs has been repeatedly stressed, member countries have not achieved that objective. Political differences, the regional economy not complementing joint investment, the resulting adoption of protective economic policies, and the membership of some ECO members in other regional organizations are among the major factors leading to the ECO's failure. Commitments to other organizations weaken those countries' commitments to the ECO.

Under the new conditions and new necessities, the obstacles are not as great as they were and the grounds for cooperation have expanded. In view of these conditions, member countries can conform their interests with regional ones and work toward ECO objectives better than before; this will ensure the ECO achieves its goals.

Commentary Discusses Resumption of Iraqi Oil Exports

LD0707124193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The subject of our first political commentary for today is Iraq's negotiations with the United Nations concerning the resumption of oil exports.

Iraq's negotiations with the United Nations for the sale of a limited amount of crude oil in accordance with the rules and regulations of that organization, will begin in New York today. The possibility of Iraq's resuming its oil exports in the near future has led to an increase in the price of varieties of crude oil in international markets which have risen by up to eight cents per barrel. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Iraq has recently declared that it is ready to sell oil on the basis of the conditions set by the United Nations. Moreover, Washington officials have said that they are not opposed to the resumption of Iraq's oil exports. This is why observers believe that Iraq is getting close to reaching agreement with the United Nations. In the opinion of oil experts, if Iraq returns again to the oil market—bearing in mind a low level of demand and a high level of supply—the prices of crude oil will drop substantially. It has been seen how the news of Iraq's resumption of its oil exports has caused the bench price of each barrel of crude oil from the Middle East to drop by 60 cents and reach $14.23 whereas the bench price of OPEC's oil is $21 per barrel.

At the start of the Persian Gulf crisis and the cessation of Iraq's and Kuwait's oil exports, the rest of the OPEC members lifted the quota system and moved in to make up for the 4 million barrels which these two countries supplied to the market. The major part of this share went to Saudi Arabia which increased its production from 5.4 million barrels per day [bpd] to 8.5 million. Kuwait too, after the war, reconstructed its oil wells and began its exports and is currently exporting 1.6 million bpd of oil and it is continuing to call for increasing its oil exports. Hence, Kuwait did not sign OPEC's latest agreement because it was not satisfied with its share.

Oil experts think that the plentiful supply of oil in the market and Kuwait's high volume of production—without the rest of the members returning to the pre-crisis quotas and with Iraq joining the ranks of oil exporters—will create new problems for OPEC and will once again lower the price of this vital commodity. Experts believe that in the event of Iraq reaching agreement with the United Nations, the OPEC Secretariat can summon the members to an extraordinary session, so that while Iraq's and Kuwait's oil production could be taken into consideration and market conditions assessed, the production ceiling of that organization could be regulated in such a way as to stabilize the international price of oil.

Rushdie 'Unremorseful' Over Deaths in Turkey

LD0607173793 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] London, July 6, IRNA—While the British press has refrained from commenting on the tragic death of some 40 people in Turkey, Salman Rushdie has continued to be unremorseful and attempted to cast the blame on the "enemy within" Islam.

In a letter to the London INDEPENDENT Tuesday [6 July], the apostate author even tried to exploit the shameful annihilation of Muslims in Bosnia into a virtual promotion of his blasphemous book, *The Satanic Verses.*

Responding to the deep sense of betrayal and alienation voiced by Muslims in Europe, he incorrigibly maintained the issue of Muslims feeling demonized in the West and victimized as "them-and-us" was dealt with centrally and "sympathetically" in his book.

In an attempt to deflect blame for last Friday's deaths in Turkey, Rushdie claimed the real enemies of Islam are not British writers like himself but Muslims holding traditional values.

He made no apologies for the continuing outrage over his book and instead tried to belittle his grotesque offence as not being inflammatory.

The British press has tried not to highlight the latest deaths resulting from his overt blasphemy by giving little prominence to the tragedy and prefering not to comment in view of the previous support expressed for the apostate.

Exchange Rates Reduced for Major Foreign Currencies

LD0707100293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran this afternoon reduced the exchange rate for all the major currencies, except the Japanese yen. According to a report of the Central News Unit, in a circular communicated to the foreign exchange departments of the country's banks at 1330 this afternoon, the floating rate for the U.S. dollar and the German mark were reduced by seven and five rials respectively, compared with this morning's exchange rate. This drop in value was 20 rials per British pound, seven rials per each Swiss franc, and one rial for each dirham of the United Arab Emirates. On the basis of this report, the declared rates for this afternoon shows eight rials gain per 100 Japanese yen.

Nepal

Clashes, Demonstrations Mark Nationwide Strike

BK0407122893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 4 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 4 (AFP)—At least three persons were injured in Simra, south of here, on Sunday [4 July] when police opened fire to remove a road block during a nationwide dawn-to-dusk strike called by seven Nepalese communist parties, a party source said.

Officials however confirmed only one injury in the firing in Simra, 210 kilometers (130 miles) south of Kathmandu, where activists had built makeshift barricades to force traffic off the roads.

In Kathmandu, meanwhile, more than 10,000 pro-communist activists joined a protest street demonstration demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

United Peoples Front (UPF) leader Babu Ram Bhattarai and Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) parliamentarian Jhala Nath Khanal led the mass march in the capital, witnesses said.

Riot police also opened fire at Tripureswore early in the afternoon when demonstrators attacked a trolley bus. Witnesses said at least 25 people were arrested, including some NCP-UML central committee members, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

A Nepalese Home Ministry spokesman said two buses were badly damaged by protestors at Samanpur in Saptari, while two government vehicles were stoned in Simra.

Reports reaching Kathmandu said the strike was fully effective in outside districts including Kaski (Pokhara), Kabhre, Dang, Chitaun and Biratnagar.

Earlier Sunday witnesses said small groups of communist activists were seen at different locations telling shopkeepers to down their shutters to make the strike more effective. (?Most) private sector bus services, taxis, auto rikshaws and other means of transport kept off the road fearing attacks by demonstrators and a resurgence of the violence which erupted after a communist strike in the Kathmandu valley last week.

At least 25 people were shot dead and 100 injured by unofficial count in five days of clashes between riot police and angry communist demonstrators after the June 25 strike, called by the NCP-UML to press for a new investigation into the deaths of two of their leaders in May.

The government put the death toll at 10 dead and 25 injured.

Party sources meanwhile said police had rounded up over 1,200 "suspicious characters," including those arrested since the June 25 strike, in an effort to preempt possible street violence Sunday.

Earlier on Sunday demonstrators attacked two buses at Lalitpur and smashed their windows.

Witnesses said street barricades at key intersections stopped cooperative transport service buses trying to ply Kathmandu roads with plainclothes police guards.

Meanwhile, an official press release from the prime minister's office said the Koirala government had advised King Birendra to constitute a judicial investigation commission under the chairmanship of Supreme Court functioning justice.

Under the Constitution, such a commission can be constituted only by the king, the press release said.

The joint communist factions want the commission to probe the May 16 jeep accident in which their General Secretary Madan Kumar Bhandari, a strong critic of the government, and Central Committee member Jeev Rahj Ashrit, were killed.

The party has rejected an earlier government report which attributed the deaths to the negligence of the jeep driver, and issued their own report saying the two were murdered and the driver deeply involved in the conspiracy.

The Nepalese unrest also spread to the Indian cities of Calcutta and New Delhi where hundreds of protesters Sunday demanded Koirala's resignation, police and witnesses said.

In the Indian capital, some 2,000 Nepalese protesters tried to reach the Nepalese Embassy but police armed with water cannons and guns stopped them at a central intersection, witnesses said.

Several tried to breach a police cordon but were pushed back by the hundreds of riot policemen guarding the diplomatic mission.

Immigrants in the eastern city of Calcutta marched to a Nepalese consulate and burned an effigy of Koirala, demanding the leader's immediate resignation, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency added.

Further Protests Planned

BK0507164493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Jul 5 (AFP)—Nepal's seven leftist factions, headed by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), announced Monday [5 July] a series of planned protests seeking the ouster of Prime Minister G.P. Koirala, a party source said.

"In order to put pressure on the ruling Nepali Congress for the ouster of Prime Minister Koirala, we have decided to launch a twelve-day agitation programme," said NCP-UML parliamentarian Pradip Nepal, adding that protests would start July 6.

The protest schedule includes a call for a three-day nationwide general strike from August 9.

A leftist action committee, citing success in Sunday's general strike in which three people were injured in Simra and demonstrators numbering 10,000 marched in Kathmandu, said members had "decided to resume our struggle" against the premier.

The current unrest was sparked by a government report on the controversial deaths of two NCP-UML leaders in a vehicle accident which put negligence as the cause.

The joint communist factions want a judicial commission to probe the May 16 jeep accident in which their General Secretary Madan Kumar Bhandari, a strong critic of the government, and Central Committee member Jeev Rahj Ashrit, were killed.

The NCP-UML in its own report claimed the two were murdered and the driver was deeply involved in the conspiracy.

Other demands put forth include ending a ruling party monopoly on public affairs and stopping corruption.

Pakistan

IJI Meeting Calls For President's Impeachment

BK0607112293 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, July 5—The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] joint parliamentary party meeting, which met here on Monday [5 July] under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, recommended the impeachment of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan [GIK] because of his alleged anti-democratic actions.

According to IJI parliamentary sources, the meeting reviewed the current deepening political crisis in the country. There was a consensus that the President must be impeached because of his "continued undemocratic actions and support to defiant and hostile provinces."

Sources said IJI legislators were of the view that the President must be "taken to task as he was destabilising the government of Nawaz Sharif without any justification."

"I was among the participants who demanded the impeachment of the President", a member of the Pakistan National Party (PNP), Hasil Khan Bizenjo, told DAWN.

"Almost all speakers, including Ajamal Khattak, M.A. Hamza, Mian Zaman, Senator Khauja Asif, Sobedar Mandokhail, Mir Dad Khail and Yasin Wattoo were on the forefront in demanding that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan be impeached without further loss of time", he said.

Sources said the Prime Minister agreed with the suggestions of the members of both the Houses of Parliament, but advised them to wait for some time.

The Prime Minister, sources said, assured his members that once be returned from Turkey, the matter of impeaching the President would be taken up.

In this regard the Prime Minister referred to his Sunday's meeting with the leaders of various religious parties, specially the chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad. He, sources added, said let him meet these religious leaders again after his return from Turkey and then the impeachment issue will be finalised.

Source said that all speakers were unanimous that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had created a "situation of mutiny" in the country. He (GIK) was instigating the provinces, especially the authorities of Punjab, not to pay any heed to the orders of the Federal Government, the members said.

The question of repealing the Eighth Amendment also came up at the meeting.

"Some of the members suggested that the government must start fresh dialogue with Ms Benazir Bhutto and try to secure her support over the question of early scrapping 8th Amendment," Mir Hasil Bizenjo said.

The Prime Minister said he too would like the resumption of early dialogue with the Opposition. Sources said participants were of the view that Ms Benazir Bhutto had nothing to do with the present political crisis.

"Everybody in the meeting was of the view that only the President is responsible for the whole crisis and not the Leader of the Opposition", a ministerial sources told DAWN.

Sources said that the Prime Minister told members that the President favoured mid-term election because he wanted to get himself elected by the new assemblies.

"[Words indistinct] second time and that is why he does not like us", the Prime Minister is quoted as having said at the meeting.

Mr Nawaz also said that due to various actions of the President, the Federation was threatened and that Mr Ishaq was also asking the Chief Minister of Sindh and NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] to turn against the Federal Government.

"The Prime Minister tells us that he has tried hard to have reconciliation with the President only in the national interest but Ishaq Khan is just out to destroy all the institutions, [words indistinct]."

Sources said that Yasin Wattoo, Hamza and Sobedar Mandokhail asked Nawaz Sharif to inform military authorities about the "conspiracies being hatched against the government by the President." Mr Nawaz Sharif replied that he had already conveyed everything to the Army Chief, Gen. Abdul Waheed. "Everything has been brought to the notice of the Army authorities," the Prime Minister reportedly said.

Senator Asif and Mian Zaman further proposed that a case of high treason be framed against the President as he was "bringing harm to the country by instigating the provinces to turn against the Centre."

Sources also said that Mr Nawaz told angry members that they should wait for the decision of the Supreme Court on the proclamation of Article 234.

The Prime Minister regretted that investment has been hampered and overall economic development brought to a halt because of the political crisis.

Bhutto Denies Secret Accord With Government

BK0607162093 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Jul 93 p 12

[Excerpt] Islamabad, July 5—Leader of the opposition denied that the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] was secretly in league with the Nawaz Sharif government. She was speaking on a point of order in the joint sitting of parliament on Monday [5 July].

Earlier Sadar Farooq Leghari of the PDA read out excerpts from a speculative press report which alleged that the leader of the opposition was already in the know of what was going to happen in the joint sitting the day the resolution invoking Article 234 was adopted. Leghari accused the speaker of trying to give that impression. Ms Bhutto, however, thought it sufficient to explain her position and deny any collusion with the government.

The speaker also chose not to comment on the speculative nature of the press report and affirmed Ms Bhutto statement.

In Monday's session the political situation in the country was discussed after a motion tabled by Chaudhary Amir Hussain, minister for parliamentary affairs. Opening the debate Maulana Hamid Saeed Kazmi of the JUP [Jamiat-I-Ulema-I-Pakistan] criticised the government for aggravating the political crisis. He said that Nawaz Sharif Government was responsible for plunging the country into the prevalent mess. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad targeted the resolution invoking Article 234 to enforce federal rule in Punjab. He said provincial autonomy was essential to keep the federation going.

The level of politics he said has plunged so low that MPAs [members of provincial assemblies] elected on the IJI ticket are now called s [sentence as published].

There are two governors, two chief ministers and two chief secretaries in Punjab. God forbid if this contagious disease spread further, there would be no federation left, he said.

Hafiz Hussain Ahmad lashed out at the government for allowing US agents to race Aimal Kansi in Balochistan through house-to-house searches. What law allows our government to permit the US to invade the privacy of our homes? he asked. We should be glad Aimal Kansi killed American agents, we should give him a gold medal.

At this Mahmood Achakzai tried to object but the deputy speaker didn't let him, saying he had every right to express his opinion in the house.

Hafiz Hussain Ahmad said that the courts have lost their credibility as institutions of justice. Instead they have become reconciliation committees. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad comtemptuously referred to the courts as Uzma and Aliya. Asking the prime minister if he would be able to work with the president was like asking a wife if she would be able to go on living with her husband in a divorce case. The superior courts of the country, he argued are not supposed to do this kind of thing. [passage omitted]

Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Offers Proposals to President

BK0607155193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad said he has presented some proposals to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, which he drafted in light of his meetings with the prime minister and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto to resolve the current political crisis in the country. Talking to reporters in Islamabad after his meeting with the president this afternoon, he said he is very optimistic about the positive outcome of his mediation efforts.

Bhutto's Meeting With Political Rival Viewed

BK0607114293 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Jul 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Jamaat Gets Into the Act"]

[Text] Such are the twists and turns of Pakistani politics that what many regard the unthinkable happened in Islamabad on Monday [5 July]: A meeting between Benazir Bhutto and Qazi Hussain Ahmad. The leaders of the Pakistan People's Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami—bitter political foes for decades—met for ninety minutes to discuss the political crisis in the country and exchange views on how to resolve this. In the power struggle that has raged in the country since the past several months, the Jamaat has sought to adopt a detached position that it describes as neither pro-president nor pro-prime minister. Now with the reconciliatory efforts that the Jamaat says it has launched to lower the political temperature in the country, it has begun a series of meetings with the different sides. Monday's [5 July] meeting with Ms Bhutto is part of these efforts, which the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif described as "a good omen" before he left for Turkey that morning.

The Jamaat's desire to play a more activist role in trying to break the national deadlock adds a new dimension to the fast changing political situation. Its view about how to end the impasse however remains very different from the position taken by virtually all the political parties in the country. Save for the ruling party and its ally , the ANP [Awami National Party], all opposition parties are now united on the joint platform of fresh elections. The Jamaat has not supported the demand but it has begun to align itself more with

what the parliamentary opposition has been saying or doing. For example, during a joint session of parliament which adopted the controversial resolution calling for central rule in the Punjab, the Jamaat voted against this hasty government move. Indeed Jamaat leader, Liaqat Baloch, described the resolution as immoral and unconstitutional. Earlier, the Jamaat launched a blistering attack on the government when it presented the budget.

The Jamaat has also come around to agreeing with the rest of the opposition that a grave crisis exists in the country—something that official spokemen are, curiously, less and less inclined to acknowledge. Paradoxically, the more the crisis has intensified the more frequent have been official statements seeking to cast this crisis as "artificial".

How far the latest move sponsored the Jamaat urges the government to adopt an accommodative approach, remains to be seen. So far, what the Jamaat's initiative does is to increase the pressure on the government to address the crisis, and come up with a viable option to end the political deadlock. What this yields in practice is an open question.

Sharif Returns to Islamabad From Istanbul

BK0707093893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, returned to Islamabad this afternoon after attending the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit in Istanbul and offering prayers at Masjid-i-Nabawi [mosque of the holy prophet] in Medina Munawwarah. During his stay in Istanbul, in addition to attending the ECO summit, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif held wide-ranging bilateral talks with all heads of state and government attending the summit for expansion of bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues.

Indian Arrested Near Airbase for Suspected Spying

BK0707122193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi—Police arrested a young Indian national, Akbar, from inside the prohibited area of the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] airbase, Chakala, said an officer here Tuesday [7 July]. Airport police were interrogating Akbar, reportedly a resident of Bombay, and suspect him of spying. A police officer said Akbar was arrested when the PAF airbase authorities reported the matter to the police. A three-day physical remand of the accused has been obtained from a court.

The accused reportedly tried during the investigation to justify his illegal presence in Pakistan. "Indians have murdered my parents and I fled from there to save my life," the accused said. He told police he first boarded a train to Lahore and then arrived in Rawalpindi. He said he was not aware that the area where he was arrested was a prohibited zone. The police did not, however, believe the story and registered a case under Section 14 of the Foreign Act.

Sri Lanka

Government Welcomes U.S. Decision on Nuclear Testing

BK0607112893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] The Government of Sri Lanka welcomes the statement made by U.S. President Bill Clinton that he has ordered an extension of the moratorium on nuclear testing. The government observes that this would facilitate progress toward a viable agreement on a complete ban on nuclear testing. According to a communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Sri Lanka together with other nonaligned countries has consistently supported the objective of a comprehensive test ban treaty. They had taken the initiative to summon a conference with the intention of converting the test ban treaty of 1963 into a comprehensive test ban treaty. Sri Lanka is of the view that a halt to nuclear testing would also create a climate conducive to the preparatory process leading to the review conference of the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons due to take place in 1995.

Security Forces Recover Arms, Kill 4 in Batticaloa

BK0607125893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Security forces have recovered a large haul of arms, ammunition, and other items used by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and killed four terrorists during search and clear operations conducted in the Batticaloa District on Sunday [4 July]. A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that the biggest recovery was made at Tharavikkulam. The area detachment of the army found three radio sets, 11 kg of explosives, 730 nonelectric detonators, one mine exploder, six tear gas bombs, 80 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, eight T-56 magazines, 17 self-loading rifles-SLR magazines, one battery charger, and various types of weapon parts. Troops ambushed and killed four terrorists west of (?Angutwelloa) in the same district on Sunday evening and recovered one T-56 rifle, one petrol can, and miscellaneous food items. The soldiers suffered no casualties. In another search and clear operation conducted at Puliyan Kandari, security forces recovered one fiberglass boat without the engine and one unmarked trawler boat engine.